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OPINION METER

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before the start of the new fiscal year

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BUSINESS



Microsoft refreshes its Surface tablet computers, giving them longer battery life and better comfort.

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ASIA



Torrential rains trigger landslides in the Philippines, killing 20 people.

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Inos attends PBDC meeting in Guam. PAGE 2
Man allegedly beats up girlfriend inside moving car. PAGE 2

\$500 fire permit draws flak again

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

CNMI businesses may have gotten a one-year breather on the 50-cent minimum wage increase this year but they have another expense to contend with—a \$500 fire safety code permit that they have to pay within 15 or 30 days after the Commonwealth Fire Division hands them an “application for permit” or face a much steeper fine.

Some businesses told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday they were warned of a \$1,000 fine for non-payment of the permit.

Fire Division personnel have restarted visiting businesses “randomly”—mostly

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ON THE EVE OF GOVERNOR'S BIRTHDAY

GOP to welcome Inos, others today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Republican Party of the NMI Association will be welcoming Gov. Eloy S. Inos, other former Covenant Party members, and independents at the GOP's general membership meeting at the Garapan



Central Park pavilion tonight, galvanizing the GOP that has been “broken” and split in so many ways for years.

Today is also the eve of the governor's 64th birthday, which will be celebrated along with a fundraiser at Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan tomorrow.

Inos will be the GOP's gubernatorial candidate in the 2014 race.

Although not formally announced yet, Inos has reportedly picked Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan)

See GOP on Page 4



NEW SIGN OF THE TIMES

Construction personnel work on a new commercial building in Garapan, at a time when the CNMI's tourism-based economy is now showing signs of recovery. Total tourist arrivals to the islands reached 400,000 as of August this year, exceeding arrival levels last seen in 2006 when Japan Airlines was flying to the CNMI from the Japan market, based on Marianas Visitors Authority data.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

New law lowers PSS' water and wastewater rates

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Acting governor Jude U. Hofschneider signed into law yesterday a Senate bill that would save the Public School System some \$2 million in water and wastewater services rates every fiscal year.

Hofschneider also administered the oath of office yesterday to two Marianas Visitors Authority board members—chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and Emma Villagomez—a day after the Senate confirmed their reappointments.

The third newly-confirmed MVA board member, Vicente M. Calvo, was off-island.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos was in Guam yes-

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AS A POTENTIAL FUND MEMBER

'Jorgensen may be barred from being class counsel'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

One of the counsels for Betty Johnson, Bruce Jorgensen, is potentially a member of the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan and thus may be barred from being class counsel, according to the Office of the Attorney General.

In the government's objection to Jorgensen's petition for attorney's fees and costs, assistant attorney general Charles Brasington said that if the Bruce Jorgensen in the Fund's re-

ords is in fact class counsel Jorgensen, then he is an inactive member of the defined benefit plan and is therefore a member of the class.

Jorgensen is seeking at least \$18.6 million in attorney's fees and costs.

RELATED NEWS

► Maratita asks to postpone hearing in Johnson class action. PAGE 2

In order to determine whether or not Jorgensen is a member of the class, Brasington said the Fund is willing to “file his contribution record (which includes social security number) under seal.”

Brasington attached to the government's objection a declaration issued by

Fund administrator Lillian M. Pangelinan last Wednesday, Sept. 18.

In it, Pangelinan disclosed that, as an employee of the Legislative Bureau, Jorgensen began contributing to the Fund in January 1996 up until August 1996.

Since then, Pangelinan said, Jorgensen's membership status has been—and currently is—“inactive.”

She said Jorgensen became a Class 1 member of the Fund under Public Law 6-17, which provided that a Class 1 member with three years' contributing service is entitled to “normal retirement” upon the age of 62.

See JORGENSEN on Page 4

Local

Maratita asks to postpone hearing in Johnson class action

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), through counsel Ramon K. Quichocho, has asked the federal court to postpone the Sept. 30, 2013, hearing where it is expected to approve the settlement agreement in Johnson's

class action.

Jesus I. Taisague joined Maratita in making the request that also asks the U.S. District Court for the NMI to lift its stay order that prevents them from filing a motion to intervene in Johnson's class action.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances

M. Tydingco-Gatewood also disclosed yesterday that Maratita and Taisague want to be allowed to file a motion to intervene, together with a proposed complaint in intervention.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered all responses to Maratita's motion to be filed no later than Thursday, Sept. 26, at

9am. Maratita and Taisague will be allowed to file a reply brief no later than Friday, Sept. 27, at 9am.

Quichocho, as counsel for Maratita, Taisague, and Joaquin Q. Atalig, informed the court on Friday of their intent to file a motion to intervene in Johnson's class action.

At the Sept. 30 hearing, the judge will also hear Johnson's counsels' petitions for attorneys' fees and costs in the total minimum amount of over \$40 million and total maximum amount of over \$60 million.

On Thursday, Maratita pre-filed a resolution urging Gov. Eloy S. Inos to reconsider and

withdraw from the Fund settlement agreement. She believes that pursuing the terms of the agreement "constitutes the impeachable offense of neglect of duty under Article 3 Section 19" of the CNMI Constitution.

Only 16 Fund members, including two lawmakers, opted out of the settlement agreement.

Inos attends PBDC meeting in Guam

HAGATÑA, Guam—CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos joined Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo here yesterday for the 2013 Summer Meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council. Calvo currently serves as the PBDC president.

American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga and Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie, the other two members of the PBDC, were not able to attend this year's meeting.

PBDC technical advisory committee members Angel Demapan (CNMI) and Telo Taitague (Guam) also attended the meeting.

At the opening of the meeting, Calvo and Inos shared their mutual concerns about the applicability of

certain federal mandates on the territories. The Affordable Care Act is a good example of one of those mandates that Calvo pointed out is easily applicable in the states but much more complicated for the territories.

One of the issues of the ACA is the Medicaid cap. Under the ACA, more funds were made available to increase the cap. However, because of the matching requirement, Guam and the CNMI do not necessarily have enough fiscal resources to provide matching funds in order to avail of the increased cap on Medicaid.

Other federal mandates that have proven to be heavily burdensome against much more frail island economies include

stipulated orders and stringent requirements imposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and federal laws like the Clean Water and Clean Air acts.

"Over time, the applicability of certain federal mandates to the territories often end up being extreme economic and financial challenges on the fragile economies of island governments," said Inos. "These issues surrounding federal mandates have also been a topic of discussion in Hawaii and American Samoa. We simply don't have the financial ability to support some of these mandates."

There was also discussion on how to effectively



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, joins Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo in Guam for the 2013 Summer Meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council.

strategize impending military realignment efforts from a wider Pacific perspective. It was recommended that the

PBDC members come together to collaborate and coordinate programmatic efforts in order to ensure maximum benefits and

quality of life for all residents.

As part of the PBDC meeting, presentations were made on the issues of tourism, China visa waiver program, compact impact funding and costs, and regional workforce development.

However, because of the significance of these issues, Calvo and Inos agreed to hold follow-up discussion on these issues at the next PBDC meeting in February so that the other member-governors will be able to participate and raise any concerns they may have.

The PBDC was established in 1980 by the governors of American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii and the CNMI to address regional economic and social concerns. **(Office of the Governor)**

CRM donates over 100 books to JKPL

The Coral Reef Initiative of the Coastal Resources Management turned over yesterday 102 books to the Children's Library of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

CRM education and outreach coordinator Nicole Schafer said the donation of nearly \$1,000 worth of children's

books is part of the agency's celebration of Coastal Month this September.

She said the 102 books only represent the first wave of book donations from CRM as 50 other titles are on their way.

Schafer, a familiar fixture in the Children's Library's Read Aloud pro-

gram every Saturday, said that CRM specially ordered the books from Bestseller, which patiently looked for the titles one by one from its supplier in the mainland.

All the books deal about the environment—preserving marine life, renewable energy, and other environmental issues—and cater to a wide range of grade levels, Schafer said.

It includes titles such as *World Without Fish*, a good read for students in grades 6 and 7. Grades 1 to 2 students will certainly get a kick out of *Biscuit's Earth Day Celebration* and *Little Bees*.

Schafer recommended that parents of students in grades 1 to 3 read books to their children as they are "a good eye-opener to what needs to be done to help save the environment."

Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi thanked CRI and CRM for the donation and said the new titles are a welcome addition to the state library's 64,000 collection.

Naputi appealed to other government agencies and private businesses to follow CRI and CRM's lead as these types of donations help sustain the JKPL, which runs on a limited annual budget.

For more information about the CNMI state library, visit JKPL during its regular hours, Tuesday to Friday, from 10am to 6pm, and Saturday from 9am to 4 pm. The library is closed on Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. Call the library at 235-7316 or 7322 or visit its website, www.cnmilibrary.com. **(Mark Rabago)**



MARK RABAGO

Coastal Resources Management education and outreach coordinator Nicole Schafer, fourth from left, and Children's Library associate Erlinda Naputi, sixth from left, along with Joeten-Kiyu Public Library staff and regular library goers pose in front of the books donated by CRM.

ME group to host bike fundraiser

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter is hosting a Pre-HOM Fundraising Bike Race on Oct. 13, 2013, starting at Mariana Resort & Spa.

The start and finish will mimic the Hell of the Marianas Race on Dec. 7, 2013. There will be four courses (50km, 25km, 16km, 8km), with both kids and adult divisions. Entry fees are \$10 adults and \$5 kids (ages 6-13 years old). The race day check-in time is 5am-5:45am, with the race start at 6am. Race entry forms are available at Gold's Gym Saipan.

For sponsorship or race information, contact Russ and Kanae Quinn at 285-1168 or email kanae@yahoo.com. **(PR)**

Man allegedly beats up girlfriend inside moving truck

A man allegedly beat up his girlfriend inside a moving car and later dragged her out from the vehicle in front of Modern Stationery in Oleai on Sunday night.

The girlfriend was wearing only her underwear and was covered with a towel when she was forced out from the vehicle, police said.

Diego C. Pinaula Jr., 20, was arrested and taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery, criminal mischief, and disturbing the peace.

Judge pro tem Timothy H. Bellas allowed Pinaula to post \$150 cash and \$1,350 in unsecured bond for his temporary release.

Police detective Therese S. Kintoki stated in her report that police received a call on Sunday at 6:26pm, from a male person reporting about a domestic violence in progress in front of Modern Stationery along Beach Road.

After two minutes, two police officers arrived at the scene, but they could not

find the suspect's vehicle and learned that the woman walked behind the store.

Moments later, police received a call that Pinaula's vehicle was parked at a residence behind San Vicente Elementary School.

A man, later identified as Pinaula, approached the police vehicle and when asked, he admitted he was driving the Toyota Hilux pickup truck and that he got into an argument with his girlfriend.

Pinaula stated that he left his girlfriend at Modern Stationery. Later, he got angry and told the officers to leave.

The officers proceeded to the girlfriend's house near the Northern Marianas College, where they talked to her.

According to the girlfriend, she and Pinaula had just come from San Antonio Beach and were heading to her apartment in Finasisu when they had an argument. She reportedly told the suspect that she was breaking up with him, prompting a physical fight inside the car.

Pinaula then pulled the truck

over at Modern Stationery parking lot. He told her to get out, but she refused. Pinaula got down, went to the passenger side and dragged her out of the vehicle. He then threw out her wet clothes from the vehicle.

She told the officers that she went inside a nearby salon where she called her godsis

to pick her up.

She stated that she dated the defendant for only five months. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

MINA opposes military's use of Pagan

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance is drafting a letter for the U.S. Department of Defense that will indicate its opposition to the military's use of Pagan.

MINA executive director Sam Sablan said the non-profit organization held a board meeting in July and all members voted unanimously to oppose the militarization of the island.

Sablan said MINA doesn't want Pagan to follow the fate of Farallon de Medinilla, which

reports say has been bombed to near destruction by the military.

She said MINA secretary Ron Smith has been tasked to draft the letter and the MINA board will approve it in late September.

DoD announced early this year its plans to use Pagan, along with Tinian, for live-fire training. The plan has been met with opposition by some CNMI residents.

During a lecture series organized by the 12th Saipan and

Northern Islands Municipal Council and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library in August, former Northern Islands residents became emotional talking about the U.S. military's plan to use Pagan as a live-fire training site.

MINA is a community based, nonprofit organization that promotes and advocates for the protection and restoration of the natural resources of the Northern Mariana Islands. **(Mark Rabago)**

Probable cause found to charge man who allegedly threw rocks at party

Probable cause was found yesterday to warrant the filing of charges against a man who allegedly threw rocks at a birthday party in Garapan where there were some children.

At a preliminary hearing, Superior Court judge pro tem Timothy H. Bellas found probable cause to charge Marco W. Selepeo Fitial with assault with a dangerous weapon, criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, and criminal trespass.

The 33-year-old Fitial is being held on a \$25,000 cash bail.

Assistant attorney general Margo Brown appeared for the government at the hearing. Assistant public defender Michael Sato represented the suspect.

According to the information filed by chief prosecutor Shelli Neal, on July 25, 2013, Fitial assaulted three men with rocks, causing damage to a 2007 Toyota Yaris. The suspect allegedly refused to leave the place despite being told to do so.

Preliminary police investigation showed that Fitial, who appeared drunk, walked to the

parking lot of Casa De Felipe apartment where a birthday party was being held for a boy and his family and friends.

Since Fitial was just staring at the party, he was invited to eat. After eating, he threw his trash on the table, scattering the food. He left the place after being told to leave.

After a few minutes, the suspect showed up again at the apartment and allegedly threw about five rocks at the party site. People attending the party ran for safety. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on Jeffry's Beach, Hidden Beach, and North Laulau Beach and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. DEQ analyzed 10 water samples collected from Saipan's east and south recreational beaches this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. **(DEQ)**

USCIS to host national Chinese-language engagement

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will host a free information session of its "Jiao liú" series on Thursday, Sept. 26, from 7:30pm to 9pm (EDT). This national session will be exclusively in Chinese. The public is welcome to participate via Internet or a toll-free telephone. Participate via teleconference at 1-800-857-6924 (password: Jiao liú) or live Web stream at www.uscis.gov/live/jiaoliu.

The "Jiao liú" engagements provide agency updates, help customers understand how best to

navigate through the immigration experience, and includes a live question-and-answer session with USCIS officials. For more information, visit www.uscis.gov/jiaoliu. **(USCIS)**

Saipan Southern High PTSA meeting today

Saipan Southern High School invites parents and students to attend the first PTSA of the new school year today, Sept. 25, 2013, from 6pm to 7pm, in the school cafeteria. Meet the Manta Ray faculty, meet the PTSA officers, and learn about the plans for this school year. **(PR)**

Free business seminars

The CNMI Small Business Development Center will be hosting the following free business seminars:

- **SAIPAN:** SSBCI Loan Packaging
- Oct. 4, 2013, 10am-12pm, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, 2nd floor
- **TINIAN:** Start an Export Plan
- Oct. 11, 2013, 10am-12pm, Tinian Chamber of Commerce, 2nd floor of Bank of Guam
- **ROTA:** Start an Added Value Product
- Oct. 24, 2013, 10am-12pm, Rota's Northern Marianas College

Online registration available at pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com. Please call for pre-registration at 664-3018 or visit www.pacificsbdc.com. **(PR)**



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PERMIT

From Page 1

at night—to give them an “application for permit.” Each visit entails anywhere between two to seven fire personnel, businesses said.

“It seems like we’re going to work just to be able to pay that \$500. Do they intend to close our business? Because that’s what it looks like to me. This is not fair. This is not funny anymore,” Matthy Orcasitas, owner of a small retail store and barbecue stand in As Lito, told *Saipan Tribune*.

Orcasitas said their business has been trying hard to save on other costs such as utilities, only to be required to pay an additional \$500 for a permit.

“We have been turning off our lights at times just to make ends meet. Asking us to pay \$500 is not reasonable,” she added.

A manager of a bar and restaurant in San Jose separately said the \$500 fire safety code permit is “outrageous.”

“It’s much more expensive than an alcohol license fee, a building safety permit, or a business license fee combined. How can we survive? We barely make utility payments and building rental,” he said.

The fire safety code permit is required of all businesses—whether it’s a barbecue stand, a retail store, or a hotel.

“What they’re asking us to pay is much more than what we make and would be a huge expense,” an employee at a small barbecue stand separately said yesterday.

Like other businesses interviewed, the barbecue stand employee said the \$500 permit is much more than what they pay in building rental, water and business license combined.

Another business owner, Glen Hunter of The Shack in Oleai, separately said the \$500 permit is “excessive” and “duplicative” of what the Department of Public Works charges when it issues a certificate of occupancy.

Hunter said the DPW certificate of occupancy is already a permit that shows one’s establishment complies with fire and building safety code, among other things.

“The implementation of the fire safety code regulations is problematic. They go out at night; in our case they visited us at past 9pm. They asked us to go to the CNMI Treasury and pay the \$500 permit within 15 days or pay a fine of \$1,000,” Hunter said in an interview.

Hunter suggests that this kind of permit should be required when businesses are just about to set up their business or renew their business license.

‘Randomness’

Another bar and restaurant owner, who asked not to be identified at this time, said the “excessive” fee should not be implemented.

“And I thought the certificate of occupancy that DPW issued already speaks for itself? Why is the government charging us another \$500 to say that our business complies with building safety laws?” the manager said.

Because Fire Division personnel makes random visit, he thinks the implementation of the law and its regulations is not fair.

“So if they happen to not inspect a relative or others’ businesses, then those businesses won’t be required to get a \$500 permit? That is not fair. What about home catering? What about the roadside vendors?” he said.

The Department of Public Safety’s Commonwealth Fire Division first implemented its regulations that include the \$500 fire safety code permit in late 2011 to early 2012.

This was temporarily stopped months later when the then Fitial administration suspended the implementation of regulations.

‘Saving lives’

Tom Manglona, chief of DPS’ Commonwealth Fire Division, said that requiring a fire safety code permit has been a law since 1999, referring to Public Law 11-56, but this has not been fully implemented.

Manglona said that DPS will issue a public statement about the \$500 permit either today or the next few days to clarify the issues surrounding the law and the fee, among other things.

“It’s all about saving lives.

Don’t you want a business that is safe for everyone to go to? You can’t put a price tag on human life,” Manglona told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the \$500 fee is only about \$42 a month, which he said is a small price compared to the lives that could be saved for having fire code compliant businesses, be it a bar or a restaurant.

Once businesses pay the \$500 permit, Fire Division personnel will then inspect their establishments to ensure they comply with fire safety regulations.

Businesses interviewed yesterday said they support the inspections but not the \$500 permit that such inspections require.

Manglona said the Fire Division understands businesses’ concerns about the fee, which is why some businesses can ask for a longer time to pay the \$500.

‘No to additional fees’

Alex Sablan, president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, separately said yesterday that businesses are already paying sufficient taxes to avail of government services such as fire safety code inspections.

“The Fire Division should be doing this under the auspices of their department [DPS] budget, to ensure facilities are safe. \$500 is an interesting number. Businesses are already paying taxes. The \$500 is a significant and additional amount that businesses have to pay just so the government will do its job; in this case, the Fire Division. We are not diminishing the Fire Division’s role. They play a significant role but the fee \$500 is an interesting number,” he said.

Sablan said the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest business organization in the CNMI, is calling on Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature to help businesses grow instead of punishing them with additional fees.

He said some agencies—OSHA, for example—doesn’t charge businesses when they do inspections.

“But they impose a fine if they find a violation and you didn’t correct it,” Sablan added.

An employee at a barbecue stand said that when Fire Division personnel visited their business, she asked, “Are you kidding? Is it \$50 or \$500?”

“They told me it’s really \$500. We’re having a problem paying that amount. But what can we do? If we don’t pay that, would they shut down our business? I thought the government is supposed to help even small businesses like us?” she said.

‘Correcting a mistake’

Reps. Ralph Yumul (Ind-Saipan) and Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) separately said yesterday that the House Committee on Commerce will review Public Law 11-56, on which the Fire Division has based its regulations and fire safety code permit.

“We will discuss the issue [today] in the [Commerce] committee meeting. We will review Public Law 11-56 and then meet with the appropriate agencies,” committee chair Villagomez said.

Yumul, for his part, said DPS Fire Division and DPW officials will be called in to see “whether they can work together on how to handle this properly.”

He said in reading PL 11-56, “its intent and what’s going on” are not the same.

“We will help correct this mistake. We have to amend or repeal the law and we want these two agencies to work with us on this,” Yumul said in a phone interview.

He added that the fire safety code law’s intentions are good, but the implementation is not.

Echoing other businesses’ concerns, Yumul said it seems that the DPW certificate of occupancy and the Fire Division’s fire safety code permit have “overlapping” functions or requirements.

“Like I said, we will help address this,” he added.

In early 2012, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce asked the former governor to withdraw and amend the new fire permit fees to truly reflect actual costs associated with “necessary, responsible and valuable fire inspections and permitting” for all CNMI commercial establishments.

Brasington said while there is no per se ban on block billing, district courts in the Ninth Circuit have the power to reduce hours that are block billed.

Brasington also pointed out that some of Jorgensen’s enumerated expenses are so unreasonable as to call the credibility of the entire billing into question.

He added that Jorgensen’s alleged difficulties with his time-keeping software casts doubt on his record keeping as a whole.

The government lawyer cited among alleged excessive billings the 23.9 hours billed on Sept. 8, 2012.

“Even when Jorgensen bills 23.9 hours in a day, the sheer stress of working for such a long period takes a toll on the finished product,” Brasington said.

NEW LAW

From Page 1

terday for the 2013 Summer Meeting of the Pacific Basin Development Council, and Hofschneider as lieutenant governor automatically became acting governor.

Hofschneider signed Senate Bill 18-7, Senate Substitute 1, House Draft 1 into Public Law 18-19, in the presence of some senators, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan and Board of Education chair Herman Guerrero.

The new law changes CUC’s water and wastewater service rates for PSS from government to commercial rates.

This means the PSS water rate will be reduced by 98.4 percent or from \$44.30 to 72 cents per 1,000 to 3,000 gallons.

PSS wastewater rate will also be reduced by 95.6 percent or from \$68 per 1,000 gallons to only \$3 for 1,000 to 6,000 gallons.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), author of the bill that became PL 18-19, said he’s grateful for the acting governor’s signing of the measure that would help PSS reduce its utility costs.

“I echo the concern of PSS that

they have been overly charged by CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] This new law allows PSS to be charged commercial rate, and not government rate. This will save PSS millions of dollars,” Torres told reporters.

PSS said earlier that if the bill becomes law, it expects to save \$2 million every fiscal year.

In a 12-month period, PSS is projected to be billed \$4.5 million for utility consumption. The rate relief law is eyed to reduce this to \$2.5 million annually.

Torres said the savings that PSS will realize as a result of this new law will go toward student development and classrooms instead of going into utility payments.

Under the new law, any late fees or penalties that have been assessed to PSS shall be waived for fiscal year 2013.

“Provided further that any fees that have been collected from PSS in fiscal year 2012 and thereafter shall be credited or used to offset PSS utility expenditures in [fiscal years] 2012, 2013 and 2014,” PL 18-19 partly reads.

Another Senate bill that Torres hopes will also get the same support from the Legislature is a proposed reduction in CUC’s reconnection fee from \$60 to \$25.

GOP

From Page 1

as his running mate. The last hurdle in the tandem was the reunification of their parties, and that has already been addressed.

Republican Party president Jack Villagomez said yesterday that the governor will be personally addressing the GOP membership tonight.

Today’s Republican general membership meeting comes a week after the Covenant Party, through its own general membership meeting, decided to follow Inos back to the GOP and dissolve the Covenant Party.

Torres, who will also be at tonight’s meeting, separately said the Republican Party will be adopting its revised bylaws and will be welcoming the governor and others.

Villagomez also said the four incumbent lawmakers that were members of the former Covenant Party will be part of the GOP candidate slate for the 2014 elections. He was referring to Reps. Ralph Demapan, John Paul Sablan, Edmund Villagomez, and Christopher Leon Guerrero.

He said former speaker Oscar M. Babauta, campaign chairman of the former Covenant Party, will also be a GOP senatorial candidate in 2014.

“The members of the former Covenant executive committee will also be members of the Republican Executive Committee,” he added.

‘For Kilili’

When asked whether the GOP will also field a candidate for a nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, Villagomez said he personally supports Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP).

“He’s doing a great job. The submerged lands law, that was his work, and many other things,” he added.

Villagomez said the GOP will be at the governor’s birthday fundraiser tomorrow.

“We will lay the red carpet and personally deliver a birthday cake to the governor at his birthday Thursday,” Villagomez said, adding that it would also be a “symbolic gesture” of welcoming the governor to the party where he originally belonged.

Earlier yesterday, Torres said joining forces “is a step in the right direction in unifying the [Republican] Party.”

The reunification of the GOP and Covenant Party has changed yet again the CNMI’s political landscape. The Republican Party had a dismal showing in the 2012 elections mainly because of voters’ disappointment with the party president, former governor Benigno R. Fitial. The former governor resigned on Feb. 20 this year, days before the start of his impeachment trial at the Senate.

Fitial founded the Covenant Party in 2001, after leaving the Republican Party, which he co-founded. Fitial rejoined the Republican Party on Jan. 5, 2011, but was unable to merge at the time the Covenant Party with the GOP.

Many Covenant Party members at the time—including Inos—did not follow Fitial to the Republican Party. Some former GOP members later called themselves Independent-Republicans. Now that Fitial is out and remains off-island since Feb. 21 this year, the GOP leadership and membership has undergone changes.

Besides Inos, other possible contender for governor in the 2014 elections is former House speaker Heinz Hofschneider.

JORGENSEN

From Page 1

Public Law 11-09 later amended Public Law 6-17, raising the normal retirement to 10 years of contributing member service, Pangelinan said.

To date, she said, Jorgensen has accumulated three months and 23 days of contributing member service.

Pangelinan said that if Public Law 6-17 applies to Jorgensen and he acquires another two years, eight months and five days of contributing member service, he will be entitled to “normal retirement” when he reaches the age of 62.

However, if Public Law 11-09 applies to Jorgensen and he

acquires another nine years, eight months and five days of contributing member service, he will be entitled to “normal retirement” when he reaches the age of 62, Pangelinan said.

Pursuant to the statute, she said, Jorgensen’s contributions have been annually credited “regular interest.”

Pangelinan said if the court and the parties would like to confirm the identity of the Class 1 member named Bruce L. Jorgensen, the Fund will submit his contribution record under seal.

Brasington pointed out that courts that have considered the situation in which class counsel is a member of the class have either disqualified the counsel or assessed the propriety of an attorney serving in the dual ca-

capacity of class counsel and a class member on a case-by-case basis.

Brasington also took issue with Jorgensen’s petition for attorney’s fees and costs, saying they are “extremely problematic” and justify an outright denial or at least a substantial reduction in the hours and costs awarded.

Brasington noted, among other things, that Jorgensen submitted block-billing records that make determining the hours expended on given tasks difficult.

Block-billing refers to the time-keeping method by which each lawyer and legal assistant enters the total daily time spent working on a case, rather than itemizing the time expended on specific tasks.

Prevention Works. Prevention is Effective. People Recover.



The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) Community Guidance Center (CGC)



CGC is the primary provider for behavioral health services in the CNMI. CGC offers comprehensive services for children, adolescents, adults, and older adults dealing with emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse-related problems. See CGC's programs and services below!

Substance Abuse Prevention Services

Project Brabu

A Substance Abuse Prevention Program focusing on Underage Drinking and Drinking & Driving. Promoting a Drug-Free CNMI!

Located on Navy Hill at the Community Guidance Center Building

Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Telephone: (670) 323-6590



Outreach presentations and exhibits about substance abuse prevention-related topics are available upon request. Visit <http://chcc.gov.mp> to find the Prevention Service Request Form or email projectbrabu.marketing@gmail.com. Services should be requested 2 weeks or more in advance.

Substance Abuse Treatment Services

If you or someone you know is struggling with addiction to alcohol or other drugs, CGC offers Substance Abuse Treatment services to put one on the path to recovery. Substance Abuse Services are FREE of charge to anyone who passes the initial screening.

They include: Screening/Registration, Intake Assessment, Substance Abuse/Addictions Assessment, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Consultation, Individualized Treatment Planning, Discharge Planning, Individual and Group Counseling, Connection to Recovery Community, Substance Abuse Prevention and Recovery Coalition, 12 Step Fellowship, Connection to Recovery Meetings (12 Step Program).

Located on Navy Hill on Gloria Drive at the Transitional Living Center

Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Telephone: (670) 323-4060/4063

Transitional Living Center

The Transitional Living Center offers programs and rehabilitation services for those with mental illness and those with disabilities to help them achieve independence and become integrated back into their community.

These programs include: Day Treatment Program, Case Management, Outreach Services, Family Support/Educational Service, Illness Management & Recovery Training, Medication Management, and Anger Management.

Located on Navy Hill on Gloria Drive

Hours: Monday to Friday, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Telephone: (670) 323-4060/4063

Victims of Crime Advocacy

The Victims of Crime Advocacy (VOCA) Program supports the provision of services to all victims of reported or unreported crime in the CNMI. These include victims who need counseling due to secondary trauma, domestic violence, depression, panic disorders, suicide ideation, sexual abuse, and drug abuse.

Located on Navy Hill at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Family Care Clinic.

Walk-In Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M.

Appointment Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM

Telephone: (670) 234-8950 ext. 3311

Psychiatric Outpatient Services

Guiding individuals to wellness and recovery! If you or someone you know is looking for help with emotional or behavioral problems, counseling is available.

Located on Navy Hill at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, Family Care Clinic.

Walk-In Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays,
8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Telephone: (670) 234-8950 ext. 3311

COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION

Micronesia, RMI continue to face accountability challenges

In fiscal years 2007 through 2011, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands spent at least half their compact sector funds in the education and health sectors.

Because both countries spent significant amounts of compact funds on personnel in the education and health sectors, the U.S.-FSM and U.S.-RMI joint management and accountability committees capped budgets for personnel in these sectors at fiscal year 2011 levels due to concerns about the sustainability of sector budgets as compact funding continues to decline through fiscal year 2023.

The FSM states completed

plans to address annual decreases in compact funding; however, the FSM national government and the RMI have not submitted plans to address these annual decreases as required. Without plans, the countries may not be able to sustain essential services in the education and health sectors in the future.

Data reliability issues hindered GAO's assessment of progress by the FSM and RMI in the education and health sectors for fiscal years 2007 through 2011 for the compacts as a whole.

Between 2004 and 2006, both countries began tracking education and health indicators, establishing data collection systems,

and collecting data for the majority of the indicators and have continued to track data on their indicators since that time.

In education, GAO found 3 of 14 indicators in the subsets of indicators it reviewed for both countries to be sufficiently reliable and 1 also to be capable of demonstrating progress: the education level of teachers in the RMI.

GAO found a variety of data reliability problems, such as some FSM states reporting data for both public and private schools while other states included only public schools in their data.

In the health sector, GAO determined that data for all 5 of the subset of indicators it reviewed in the FSM were not sufficiently reliable to assess progress for the compacts as a whole, and in the RMI, 1 health indicator was sufficiently reliable and 2 were not sufficiently reliable; for 2 other RMI health indicators, GAO had no basis to judge.

In much of their reporting on their education and health indicators, the FSM and RMI have noted data reliability problems and some actions they have tak-

en to address the problems.

The U.S.-FSM and U.S.-RMI joint management and accountability committees have also raised concerns about the reliability of FSM's education and health data and RMI's health data and required that each country obtain an independent assessment and verification of these data; both countries have yet to meet that requirement, and, as a result, neither country can determine its progress in these sectors.

The single audit reports GAO reviewed indicated challenges to ensuring accountability of compact and noncompact U.S. funds in the FSM and RMI. For example, the governments' single audits showed repeat findings and persistent problems in noncompliance with U.S. program requirements, such as accounting for equipment.

The Department of the Interior has taken steps regarding accountability of compact funds such as establishing the Chuuk Financial Control Commission, but Interior has not coordinated with other U.S. agencies about the risk status of the FSM and RMI. Furthermore, the FSM,

RMI, and U.S. offices responsible for compact administration faced limitations hindering their ability to conduct compact oversight.

For example, Interior's Office of Insular Affairs experienced a staffing shortage that disproportionately affected compact grant oversight compared to other OIA activities, with 5 of 11 planned positions filled.

Why GAO did this study

In 2003, the U.S. government approved amended Compacts of Free Association with the FSM and the RMI, providing for a total of \$3.6 billion in assistance over 20 years. Given the countries' dependence on compact funding, GAO was asked to conduct a review of the use and accountability of these funds.

This report addresses (1) the FSM's and RMI's use of compact funds in the education and health sectors; (2) the extent to which the FSM and RMI have made progress toward stated goals in education and health; and (3) the extent to which oversight activities by the FSM, RMI, and U.S.

governments ensure accountability for compact funding.

GAO also provided information on infrastructure spending and projects in the education and health sectors. GAO reviewed relevant documents and data, including single audit reports; interviewed officials from Interior, other U.S. agencies, and the FSM and RMI; assessed data reliability for subsets of both countries' education and health indicators; and visited compact-funded education and health facilities in both countries.

What GAO recommends

Among other actions, Interior should (1) take all necessary steps to ensure the reliability of FSM and RMI indicators in education and health, (2) assess whether to designate each country as high risk, and (3) take actions to correct its disproportionate staffing shortage related to compact grant implementation and oversight.

Interior generally agreed with GAO's recommendations and identified actions taken, ongoing, and planned. *(GAO)*

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Saipan, MP 96950

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Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	Civil Action No. 11-0106
Plaintiff,	
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE
ROMAN P. LIZAMA and NAMIE ILEMELONG, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 24th day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 36, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 02, the original of which was recorded on December 16, 1993 as Document No. 93-4410 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan, CNMI.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. **Deposit and Payment.** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Marianas Public Land Trust.

4. **Change of Terms.** Auctioneer and Marianas Public Land Trust reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. **Inspection and No Warranty.** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Robert Tenorio Torres Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,	Civil Action No. 11-0077
Plaintiff,	
vs.	NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE
JAMES T. LIZAMA and JINTANA K. LIZAMA, Defendants.	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 2nd day of January, 2013, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **9th day of October, 2013 at 10 a.m.**, at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot 011 G 239, containing an area of 865 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 05 dated December 1, 1993, and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office on December 16, 1993 as File No. 93-4413.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. **Rights and duties of Auctioneer.** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a) to withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c) to reject any and all bids.

2. **Bids.** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

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DATED this 21st day of August, 2013.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Chacha Oceanview gets McTeacher's Night funds



MARK RABAGO

Chacha Oceanview Middle School principal Vincent Dela Cruz, second left, poses with, from left, McDonald's Saipan executive assistant Mabel Ayuyu, McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu, and a crewmember after receiving proceeds from its McTeacher's Night stint yesterday at the fast-food restaurant's main branch along Middle Road.

Chacha Oceanview Middle School received yesterday the proceeds from its McTeacher's Night stint at McDonald's Middle Road.

The school's principal, Vincent Dela Cruz, said the money they received from McDonald's Saipan will be used to buy water dispensers, school supplies, and rewards to students and staff who participated in the fundraiser in June.

Dela Cruz said Chacha Oceanview's McTeacher's Night stint was only two weeks because it was cut short by the end of the school year.

Nonetheless, the school's teachers, students, and parents still gave their all while wearing the familiar red caps and aprons and manning the cash register and taking orders for takeout at the fast-food restaurant.

Dela Cruz, who worked at a fast-food franchise in California while growing up, said his McTeacher's Night stint was very fun and memorable.

He said the biggest challenge for the school was the distance teachers, students, and their parents had to travel from Kagman to Gualo Rai. However, he said they were able to marshal

some students and their families residing in Tanapag and San Roque to visit McDonald's in the five days they had McTeacher's Night.

He said the event also brought his staff closer and his staff and students were able to find out what working at a fast-food restaurant feels like.

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu said that, although Chacha Oceanview only had a limited time during its turn to fundraise at McDonald's, she saw that everyone worked hard and supported one another to make their

stint a success.

Mabel Ayuyu, daughter of Marcia and executive assistant of McDonald's Saipan president Joe Ayuyu, congratulated Chacha Oceanview for their effort and said she is proud that McDonald's Saipan would be able to help the school meet its needs.

McTeacher's Night was launched in December to generate funds to support activities and projects of individual PSS schools. Under the effort, teachers and staff of the school serve customers at McDonald's in exchange for a percentage of sales. *(Mark Rabago)*

'Middle school plan will bring students closer to home'

Despite having to dig the Public School System from a "trench hole" of its own making, Education Commissioner Dr. Rita Sablan said that PSS would still push through with plans to expand the number of middle schools in the Commonwealth.

PSS implemented the concept at Kagman Elementary School

and Chaha Oceanview Middle School this school year when the former's grade 6 students transferred to the latter, which she said benefited the community many fold.

"We started by getting stakeholders' feedback and we stumbled into a trench hole but we were able to get out of it.

This year we're implementing the middle school concept in Kagman at Chaha Oceanview Middle School and next year we will have phase two and it will have other elementary schools transformed to middle schools that will allow the students to be closer to the community," Sablan said

in last week's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

She said students at Tanapag and San Roque elementary schools currently have to travel more than 5 miles each day to go up to Kagman for their junior high. "Our plan is to bring those kids down to

Tanapag so they can be closer to their community."

Besides less travel time for students, Sablan said that creating more middle schools will allow students to take part in more competitive interscholastic sports with the introduction of a middle school division, give them more access to after-school programs, and instill in them a sense of personal belonging.

Another bonus, she said, is parents will have to travel less for PTA meetings and other urgent school matters.

Aside from Tanapag Elementary School, PSS is also planning to transform Dandan and San Antonio elementary schools into middle schools next school year.

"We're tracking Chaha Oceanview right now so if there are any lessons we can learn, perhaps we can work on those so we make sure that our transition into middle schools and phase two will be smooth," she said.

One tangible benefit from implementing the middle school concept at Chaha Oceanview is that it has allowed Kagman Elementary School to expand its kindergarten program.

"Moving our sixth graders to Chaha Oceanview gave us more classrooms for our kindergarten students. Now we have a total of four kindergarten classrooms at Kagman, unlike last year when we had two."

That is actually one of PSS' goals in transforming the islands' elementary schools into middle schools, Sablan said, as it will give elementary schools more room to bring in more early childhood students.

"Every year we have about 300 students [on] the waiting list to go to Head Start or to go into kindergarten and we really want to just zero that out and make sure that every child who needs to be in school would be given that opportunity."

The middle school concept will also help PSS finally solve the overcrowding at Hopwood Junior High School.

"Our goal at the end of school year 2015 is that Hopwood Junior High School's population will be trimmed to 50 percent. Right now we have close to 1,300 students at Hopwood. So our goal is to cut down the number of students there to about 600. It's more manageable, especially for that age group."

(Mark Rabago)

Corporate sponsors line up for charity event

Sponsors from the business community are lining up to assist the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation with its fundraising event called "Saipan's Next Top Chef Competition" scheduled for Nov. 30, at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Delta Air Lines has donated a \$200 travel voucher and the Hyatt Regency Saipan has also donated gift certificates to be used as prizes in the upcoming event.

Rose Smith, founder of the Empty Vessel Ministry, said she is "very grateful to the businesses which are generously providing donations for the chef competition."

She also invited everyone to meet the 2012 Saipan's Top Chef Competition winner, Chef Manny Pancha, who will be at the Garapan Street Market, this Thursday, Sept. 26. Chef Pancha bested four other chefs in last year's fundraising competition.

Tickets for this year's Chef Competition can be purchased for just \$15 at the Garapan Street Market this Thursday, Sept. 26.

Empty Vessel is a 501(c)(3) charity and all donations are tax deductible. Visit the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation on its Facebook page, or the website at www.emptyvesselministry.org. (PR)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rose Smith, founder of the Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, receives a donation from Delta Air Lines Sales representative Christopher A. Concepcion. Delta Air Lines will co-sponsor the fundraising event, named "Saipan's Next Top Chef" Competition slated for Nov. 30, 2013.

150 avail of free health screening

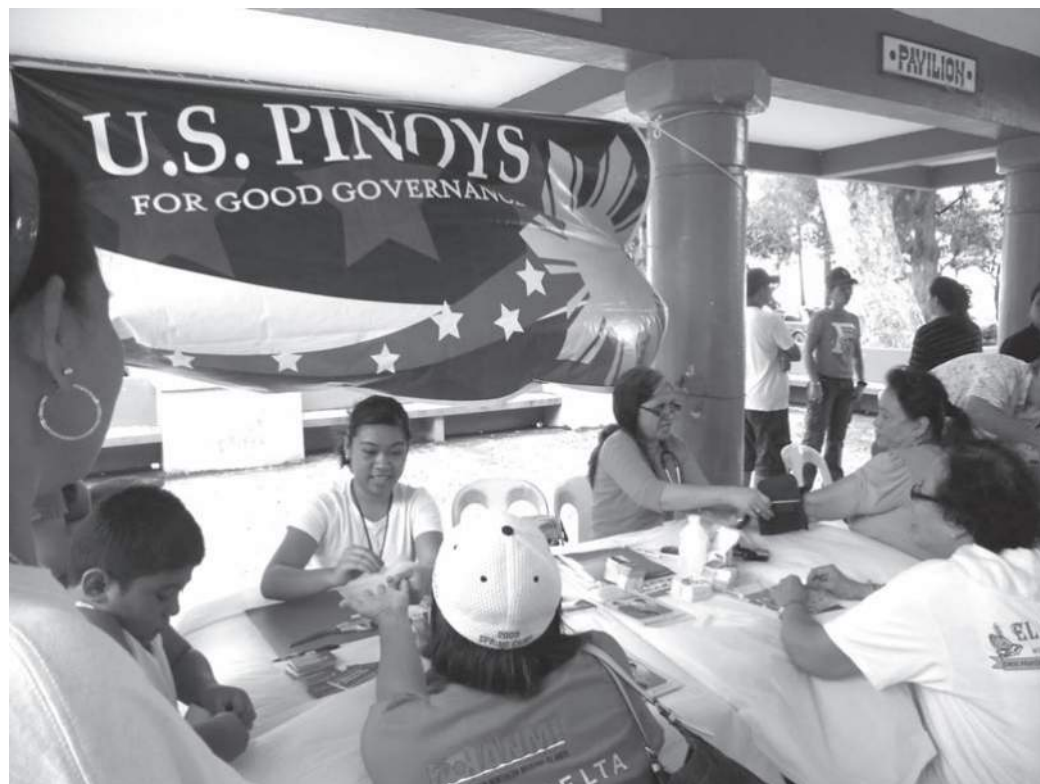
Heavy rains and gusty winds didn't stop about 150 people from taking advantage of the free health screening organized by the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter and Marianas Eye Institute last Saturday at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe.

USP4GG Marianas Chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin said a majority of those who availed of the free services were Filipinos but a number of Chamorros, Carolinians, Chinese, Korean, Bangladeshi, and Micronesians also went to the health screening.

"Despite the very bad weather, which others thought to be a typhoon, the residents of Saipan braved heavy rains and gusty winds to avail of the free health screening. It was a very successful event," she said.

Lamkin added that people who availed of the free health screening were very thankful to the local chapter of the USP4GG and Marianas Eye for providing the services, especially since most have no health insurance and cannot afford to see a healthcare provider.

"Probably one third of those who availed the health screening were hypertensive; however, they were not aware that they had high blood pressure because



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas College student Lea Mendiola, left, performs a blood sugar test while U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance Marianas Chapter chair Dr. Celia Lamkin conducts a blood pressure check in Saturday's free health screening at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe.

they were asymptomatic. There were also residents whose blood sugar are more than 200mg/DL after fasting for 12 hours. They were all advised to see or consult their doctors," she said.

The other sponsors of the free health screening were Upper Room International Ministries, National Institute Heart Lung and Blood Institute, National Institute of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Ronald Lamkin, Dr. Celia Lamkin, Charles Lamkin

(Dr. Lamkin's brother-in-law), St. Louis, Missouri, and Rene Batallones.

USP4GG also thanked the following people who volunteered: Emily Taitano, vision screening; Lea Mendiola, blood sugar tests and body mass index; pastor Danny Ibanez, counseling and logistics; Amalia Ibanez and Rowena Velasco, registration and weight determination; Eduardo Belocora and J.R. Belocora, logistics and serving water to participants;

Rene Batallones and staff for providing the chairs and tables; Lucita Torrez Reyes, distribution of health-related materials; and USP4GG Guam's Cyroos Belocora, who made the poster for health screening announcement.

The U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization based in New York, headed by national chairperson Loida Nicolas Lewis, national president Rodel Rodis, and spokesperson/legal counsel Ted Laguatan. (Saipan Tribune)

ANNOUNCEMENT

SAIPAN SWIM CLUB TRYOUTS/ REGISTRATION

SSC is pleased to announce and invite all interested swimmers for tryouts and registration for the 2013-14 swim season. Swimmers should come with swim clothes (swim goggles if you have them) and towels. Parent/guardian must be present.

Tryouts/Registration Dates:

Monday 9/23

Friday 9/27

Monday 9/30

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Location: Kan Pacific Pool, Marpi

SSC also announces that it is looking for a part-time Assistant Swim Coach. Lifeguard certification preferred. Police clearance and character references required. Send resumes via fax to 234-5749 or email Robert Torres at rttlaw@pticom.com

/s/ Robert T. Torres
SSC President



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950

Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962

E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, September 26, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (August 30 & September 18, 2013)

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEM(S)

1. Suspension of Rules/Election of Officers and Board Organization
2. Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

September 24, 2013



Despite the rainy weather, volunteers on Rota came out in full force to participate in this year's 28th International Coastal Cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rainy day cleanup on Rota yields 3,837 lbs of trash

The bad weather this weekend didn't stop the residents of Rota from coming out and making a difference.

On Sept. 20, 2013, the people of Rota came out in full force to clean up their island and protect their oceans from marine debris entering their waterways. The Ocean Conservancy's 28th International Coastal Cleanup on Rota was sponsored by the Coastal Resources Management Office and the Office of the Mayor. The event was held in conjunction with the Rota mayor's islandwide cleanup in preparation for the San Francisco de Borja Fiesta scheduled this October.

More than 27 percent of Rota's population—or a grand total of 699 volunteers—disregarded the bad weather and came out to volunteer.

Land-based participants who cleaned the villages, roadways, shorelines, and beaches included personnel from the departments of Public Works, Lands and Natural Resources, Commerce, Public Works, Public Lands, Labor, Community and Cultural Affairs, and Finance; Commonwealth Health Center, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Rota Municipal Council, Dr. Rita Inos Jr./High School, Rota Elementary School, Grace Christian Academy, Eskue-

lan San Francisco de Borja Catholic School, Cape Air United Express, Freedom Air, Star Marianas, Rota Resort & Country Club, Philippine Association, Northern Marianas College, and the Transportation Security Agency.

Water-based divers that worked to clean the ocean harbors consisted of personnel from the Department of Public Safety and its Boating Division.

The Coastal Resources Management Office also coordinated a special contest with IT&E marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala who donated three special prize packages on behalf of IT&E to the public/private

school group who collected the most trash. IT&E just happened to be on the island during the cleanup activities to sponsor a scheduled promotion and offered to donate prizes for the most trash collected.

The students welcomed the additional challenge. The winners all came from the Dr. Rita Inos Jr./High School, with the first prize going out to Therese Manalang and group, second prize to Daisy Barcinas and group, and third prize to Elvira Mesngon and group for the most trash collected.

This year's volunteers were able to remove over 3,837 lbs of trash from the island's eco-

system, which is an increase of about 854 lbs of trash from last year's coastal cleanup.

William Pendergrass, coordinator of the Coastal Resources Management Office and country coordinator for Ocean Conservancy, attributed the increase to the Dr. Rita Inos Jr./High students targeting one of the island's illegal dumping areas and possibly the ITE contest.

"I would like to convey my sincere appreciation to all who gave their time and hard work toward the success of the International Coastal Cleanup this year, with special thanks to the following businesses who donated bottled water to keep

the participants hydrated: Cape Air United Express, Ace Hardware, Three Kings Store, and Sinapalo Safeway. In addition, I would like to thank Fred Barcinas of D&J Equipment Rentals for assisting with the hauling of trash to the dumping site, Division of Environmental Quality, Gary Toves, Division of Fish & Wildlife Robert Ulloa, Freedom Air, William Pendergrass II, Cape Air United Express, Jerome Fugihira, and Coastal Resources Management Tehani Kirby-Joab and Benjamin C. Norita who assisted with the overall coordination of all the activities," said Pendergrass. (PR)



Students take part in the Ocean Conservancy's 28th International Coastal Cleanup on Rota.



IT&E marketing coordinator Brad Ruszala donates special prize packages for the public/private school group who collects the most trash.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



This year's International Coastal Cleanup on Rota removed over 3,837 lbs of trash from the island's ecosystem.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Island Snapshots



NEW FACULTY

Several Northern Marianas College employees and students recently welcomed new faculty members during a meet-and-greet activity held at the institution's As Terlaje campus. The new faculty members are in the Business, Language and Humanities, and Science Health Math & Athletics departments.

RAYNARD TRAVILLA/NMC



NEW PTSA OFFICERS

The new officers of the Parents Teachers Students Association of Hopwood Junior High School have their picture taken after their recent election.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy first birthday to our "dudus Anabelle." We love you! Love always, Nina Kate, Uncle Joey, Josh, Naomi, and JC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to a loving, caring, and most amazing lover/father, Eric Borja Ilo! May God bless you on your special day with many more birthdays to come. We love you with all our heart! Greetings come from Kim and Baby Izaiah Blaze.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Happy birthday to our loving dad and grandpa, Riolante Mostales, and many more blessing years to come! We love you very much and see you soon! From your family in Portland, Oregon: Joey, Kate, Josh, Naomi, and JC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



SIS' SUPER SERVICE

Saipan International School's 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade classes pose with the mountain of trash they collected last Friday at the old airport runway. Six pickup loads were collected during a morning of very dirty but rewarding work by the elementary students, teachers and parents. The Division of Environmental Quality picked up the garbage for proper disposal.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Overpopulation: Why ingenuity alone won't save us

By ALAN WEISMAN
Los Angeles Times

Alan Weisman is the author of *The World Without Us*. His book *Countdown: Our Last, Best Hope for a Future on Earth?* will be published this week. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.



It's easy to grasp that in a national park, balance must be maintained between predators and prey, lest the ecosystem crash. But when we're talking about our own species, it gets harder. The notion that there are limits to how much humanity this parkland called Earth can bear doesn't sit easy with us.

The "nature" part of human nature includes making more copies of ourselves, to ensure our genetic and cultural survival. As that instinct comes in handy for building mighty nations and dominant religions, we've set about filling the Earth, rarely worrying that it might one day overflow. Even after population quadrupled in the 20th century, placing unprecedented stress on the planet, it's hard for some to accept that there might be too many of us for our own good.

A recent essay in the New York Times by University of Maryland geographer Erle C. Ellis, argued that population growth is actually the mother of invention, that it inspires new technologies to sustain ever more humans and to coax more from the land. And as Pope Benedict XVI wrote in his 2009 encyclical "Caritas in Veritate," "On this Earth there is room for everyone ... through hard work and creativity."

In 2011, I visited the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which had warned in 1994 that it was "unthinkable to sustain indefinitely a birthrate beyond 2.3 children per couple.... The contrary demographic consequences would be unsustainable to the point of absurdity." Nevertheless, the church still encouraged population growth.

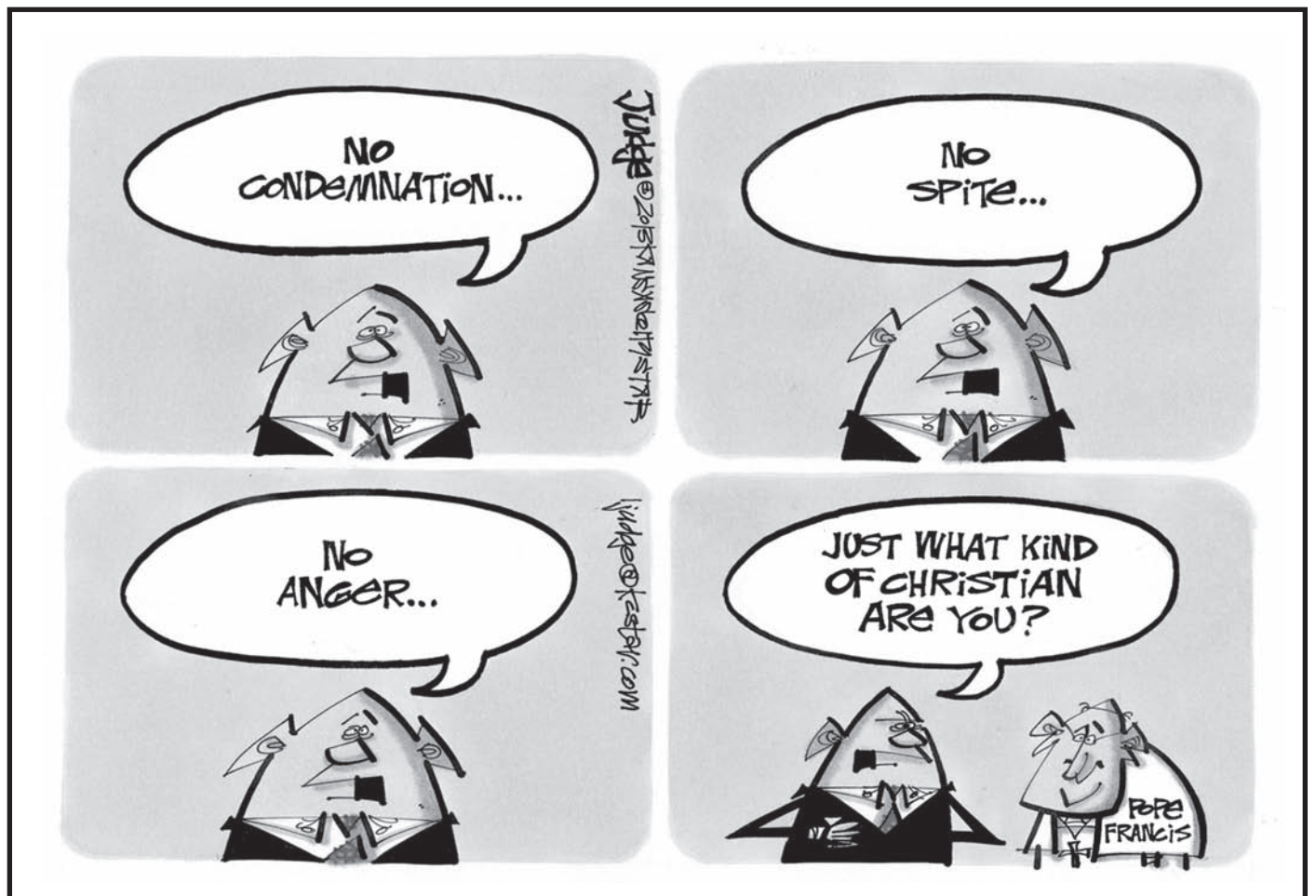
With a billion humans already malnourished, I asked the academy's director where would we get food for nearly 10 billion by midcentury? Clearing more forests for farming would be disastrous. Beset by floods and erosion, China alone has been spending \$40 billion to put trees back. And force-feeding crops with chemistry has backfired on us, with nitrogen runoff that fouls rivers, deadens New Jersey-sized chunks of the oceans and emits large quantities of two greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide.

The answer, I was told, would be through increased yields using new genetically modified crops from the centers of the Green Revolution: the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center in Texcoco, Mexico, and the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

The Green Revolution's high-yield, genetically selected strains more than doubled grain harvests during the 1960s. It is often cited as having triumphed over dire predictions of famines caused by population growth outpacing food production, which were famously made by economist Thomas Robert Malthus in "An Essay on the Principle of Population" and echoed by his latter-day analogues, Paul and Anne Ehrlich, who wrote "The Population Bomb."

However, when I went to the maize center in Texcoco and to the rice institute in the Philippines, I found no food scientists who agreed with that triumphalist scenario. Instead, I learned, Green Revolution founder Norman Borlaug had warned in his 1970 Nobel

See **OVERPOPULATION** on Next Page



The price of modernity

The tough times of the '60s are on the pedestal of memory lane. It's our "golden days" we visit with a sense of nostalgia. It was a hard decade that turned hardworking kids into contributing members of our community. We've earned our "quarters"—arm and leg scars—learning traditional farming and fishing.

Over the last 50 years, though, we've gradually exited agrarian or subsistence lifestyle to modernity, with government and private sector jobs supplanting farming and fishing. A modern lifestyle, though, has its own setbacks too. And we're learning how hard it is living in an economy that has tanked beyond recognition. Lamely, some of us have returned once more to subsistence living. It's the only way to supplement the family purse.

Nutrition Assistance Program or food stamps may ease the dietary requirements of some 9,500 recipients. But it doesn't provide for other familial needs nor is it of any help for those at the threshold of poverty income level or \$23K for a family of four. In fact, some 52 percent are underemployed, meaning they have jobs but aren't making enough for basic familial needs, i.e., clothing and books for school kids, health insurance, healthcare, real estate loan (first family home), utilities, among others.

We've shifted breakfast from rice and fish soup (cooked in coconut milk) to cereal and fresh milk. We've changed from healthy local dishes to what I call the DC-10 diet. We now proclaim to buy local veggies, fresh local fish, and farm-grown meat products. But fish is very expensive, hailing from the cost of gasoline fishermen must buy to go fishing. A diet in veggies is promoted but have we really built a taste for it?

We've built and live in concrete houses largely prompted by our location in the typhoon belt. Outside of the typhoon season, we still must live in them, however unbearable the heat after 10am. You turn on the air-conditioning unit and you're likely to cringe when your utility bill comes at month's end. It seems you're in for a mess every which way you turn, while family income takes its seat in stagnancy land.

Trojan horses from afar

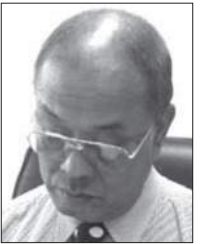
As the bad times deepen and revenue heads deeper south, we pine for help, any help as to ignore employing due diligence to see if federal programs falling out of the skies are in fact helpful or otherwise.

As such, we accept like a shipwrecked crew, anything like the reported \$150 million from Medicaid. Did anybody review if this isn't in fact a fiscal Trojan horse where we shoulder the entire nine yards when the original funds taper off after money is depleted?

With revenue headed south without firm plans to serve as a road map to reviving investment for purposes of "wealth and jobs creation," how do we navigate difficult fiscal obligations ahead? Is the CNMI ready to declare bankruptcy? Isn't the poor fiscal posture a serious indicator of poor economic conditions and isn't a debt-ridden government another serious issue screaming for some form of attention by leadership?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Floored and inebriated we may be from it all, it's time to regroup with a sense of purpose to rebuild these isles to the level playing field of economic prosperity. Only then would we grant the simple folks at home a fair resetting of familial buttons to relish the essence of an island paradise. Now is not the paradise that we want it to be. It's all in the palm of our hands to do something proactively to pull out of the deepening economic rut. We owe brighter tomorrows to posterity. The time to do it is now!

Definition of poverty

So many books have been written about poverty but it remains an international concern for the most part. I need not read those books or the solutions offered for I've lived it, slept in it, walked it daily in my younger days, cried in despair and hopelessness. It, however, emboldened my determination to exit it someday. What I had to endure dwarfs the poverty I've seen in the ghettos of New York and L.A.

Poverty is when food is scarce and on many occasions you had to do with taro, salt, and faucet water as you prepare to go to class in the morning.

Poverty is wearing a set of pants sewn from your late father's old leg trousers just so you could go to class the next day.

Poverty is asking your teary-eyed mom how come you're no longer going to a private pre-school after dad passed away. It was an innocent query from a 4-year-old boy.

Poverty is the arrival and departure of the holiday season where you play with empty sardine cans under the house with the simple joy of poor kids' garbage toys.

Poverty is watching everybody else in church donning his/her best while you thank Him for covering your back with an altar boy's cassock where your old and ripped T-shirt hides from view.

Poverty is eating leftovers from cousins whom you served as the son of a widow who swallowed, with silence and humility, her kids being treated as family slaves.

In retrospect, stunning how I was able to acknowledge and dealt with the lowest part of life in misery using the depths of spirituality to move on. He was my partner every inch of the way!

■ ■ ■

Integrity is earned! Said one of daughters about my journey as a journalist of four decades, "You've kept your principles and have earned the trust of a lot of readers. As such, you're a pillar of integrity or the mountain that never bows to the sea." Thoughtful!

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**The best deal out of the whole mess**

As reported, only 16 of the 3,160 who currently receive benefits from the Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan chose to opt out of the proposed settlement agreement agreed upon by the CNMI government and the plaintiff in the lawsuit pending in the federal District Court. This case was previously referred to as the Doe/Roe lawsuit and is now known as the Betty Johnson lawsuit.

Judge Tydingco-Gatewood is in the process of entertaining comments prior to granting her final approval. The settlement agreement proposes the appointment of a settlement trustee who will act in the place of the board of trustees of the NMIRF, collect funds, and disburse same to retirees and others who collect benefits under the defined benefit plan. The settlement agreement also contains a stipulated judgment in the amount of \$789 million, which will be enforced by the federal District Court should the CNMI government default on any of its obligations.

This is good news for the reasons stated below.

I would like to make it clear I have no intent or desire to impugn the motives of those who seek to challenge the constitutionality of the proposed settlement agreement. However, the CNMI attorney general, who is the highest ranking law enforcement official in the Commonwealth and charged with upholding the laws of the Commonwealth as well as the U.S. and CNMI Constitutions, played a key role in the deliberations that resulted in the settlement agreement. Further, it is safe to assume that all the parties to the lawsuit and Judge Tydingco-Gatewood, who has given preliminary approval to the settlement agreement, are familiar with the various arguments raised in the petition and in the House resolution. Lastly, such questions are best left to the Judiciary to resolve.

However, the 11th hour objections questioning whether the Johnson case is a legitimate class action amaze me as this lawsuit has been the subject of numerous articles in the local newspapers and well covered by the local TV outlet for at least three years. The problems associated with the Fund's defined benefit plan have been catalogued by economist William Stewart for over a decade.

Nobody objecting to the provisions calling for a 25-percent temporary deferment of benefits seems to recall that the main objective of the Doe/Roe lawsuit was to have the case in the

Superior Court transferred to the federal District Court for collection purposes. The federal District Court had no conflict of interests and has the inherent power to enforce its judgments, unrestricted by CNMI laws. Had this approach, advanced by Judge Alex Munson, been approved by the trustees of the Retirement Fund back in January 2010, there is a strong possibility that retirees, survivors, and other beneficiaries of the defined benefit plan would not be asked to now defer benefits.

Instead the trustees chose to appeal the Munson ruling and fought tooth and nail to keep enforcement of Judge Govendo's award of \$231 million damages in the CNMI Superior Court. This approach worked well for the attorneys retained by the trustees, but not so well for the rest of us. I recall one hearing where Mr. Jorgensen had to respond to a motion before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in Honolulu. The matter was argued on a Friday and a decision was rendered the following Monday or Tuesday in favor of Jorgensen. This must have cost the Fund a considerable amount of money and has to be some sort of record, but it was lost on the trustees who, shortly thereafter and following the advice of the same attorney, wasted \$800,000 to \$1 million on legal fees for a Boston law firm that filed a lawsuit in a federal bankruptcy court in Hawaii, only to be told by Judge Faris that the bankruptcy court lacked jurisdiction. This case was "dead on arrival," but the trustees used our dwindling funds to pay for such nonsense.

Also, overlooked by those opposed to the settlement agreement is the fact that none of the \$231 million in damages awarded by Judge Govendo in June 2009 has been collected by the Fund's attorneys, that the Fund's attorneys and actuaries were seeking to reduce our benefits by 58 percent or 42 percent in the failed bankruptcy proceeding, and that it took the trustees three years to agree to transfer the Superior Court case to the federal courts. It should have been filed there in the first place.

One doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to realize that the cuts proposed by the Fund trustees are much larger and more painful than the 25-percent deferral set forth in the proposed settlement agreement!

I have closely observed the workings of the Fund for the past

six or seven years and have concluded that the demise of the Fund's defined benefit plan was like watching a train wreck in slow motion! There was a total lack of transparency and major decisions, many of which appear to be "attorney driven," were arrived at in total secrecy!

Does anyone in his or her right mind really believe that a settlement trustee, appointed by and under the supervision of a federal District Court judge will not do a better job? I am confident that some of the experienced and hardworking staff of the Fund will be brought aboard by the settlement trustee to bring about a smooth transition.

Is the proposed settlement agreement perfect? No! All of us should receive the full benefits that we were promised and entitled to. However, it represents, at least to me, the best deal that we can get considering all the circumstances.

We owe a debt of gratitude to all of the parties and their representatives (especially Gov. Inos and Betty Johnson) who, at great risk, took the initiative to sit down and hammer out a settlement agreement that will ensure that at least 75 percent of benefits under the defined benefit program will continue for retirees, survivors, and other beneficiaries. Most important is the fact that the settlement agreement contains a consent judgment in the amount of \$789 million, enforceable by the federal District Court. This provision should provide much needed security for years to come.

Much has been said about the award of attorney's fees in this case. The fees will be determined by Judge Tydingco-Gatewood and I am confident that the award will be fair and equitable. The Doe/Roe/Johnson lawsuit has been certified as a class action and very complex rules come into play. We should all await her decision before rendering an opinion.

In closing, I cannot see any reason why retirees, survivors, and others who receive benefits under the Fund's defined benefit plan should go back to a failed system! Hopefully, those opposed to the settlement agreement will reassess their positions.

David L. Price
Walterboro, SC

Power, politics, and the people

It is apparent that our leaders are gearing up for winning next year even though there is too much that still needs to be done now! But what I'm getting from voters is that the next election will be more about the power politics *of* and *by* the people as they did in the last election. One can only assume that voters are going to be even more vigilant and hold our leaders even more accountable. This is not to say that we don't have some good people on the Hill but the expectations of the people are clearly not being met (Read the papers, leaders!). I will also give credit to the governor and the Legislature for trying but there is a saying that "sometimes your best may just not good enough." We still need more improvements and accountability in government and a better quality of life!

The recent power play of the Covenant and Republican parties has obviously taken the lead position in the politics of the next election and I'm glad to see the party reunited as it is a sign of our sick democracy getting what it needs to recover. In addition, the Demo-

crats have also made a power play to revive the party and asserted the needs of the people to have higher wages and other issues, in contrast to what is being pushed by the Republicans. We may finally see issues having to stand on their merits again under these conditions. I would dare say that it is almost common knowledge that many of our leaders actually do more to play safe politics and grandstanding plays to make sure they get re-elected than actual work to improve our economy and quality of life.

Politics is at its best when there are two sides to an issue and the issue is forced to stand on its own merit(s), as opposed to what some leader might think. Too often we hear leaders talk about what they think is best, instead of giving us empirical evidence that she/he is right. For example: Party politics and power has kept us from looking at other options to casinos for a decade. Party politics and safe politics forced our leaders in the Legislature to play it safe and follow the executive with virtually no alternatives or checks. Party politics and power is how the Fund

ended up on the chopping block.

Readers are witnessing these decisions one after another being made on the Hill for years. It is clear to me that we need more people with degrees in the sciences and arts on the Hill who will be an independent voice for the people over their party and safe politics; they are supposed to be the risk takers, not the voters. This is why I know people need two parties with opposing views to force issues to stand on merit.

Hopefully for the sake of us all, the people will be looking a lot closer at the qualifications of the next group to be elected and not just following parties or the person they think will be the winner. The election should be a time for power politics by the people, with the election of better qualified individuals who are not afraid to be an independent voice for the people.

Ambrose M Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

OVERPOPULATION

From Page 10

Peace Prize acceptance speech that his work essentially had only bought the world time to resolve overpopulation.

"There can be no permanent progress in the battle against hunger until the agencies that fight for increased food production and those that fight for population control unite in a common effort," Borlaug said.

So what are we facing now? In June 2013, the United Nations revised an earlier estimate that population would level off at 9.2 billion by midcentury; it now says our numbers will keep growing, hitting nearly 11 billion by the end of the century, with no sure peak in sight.

"In the next 50 years," a worried Hans-Joachim Braun, Borlaug's successor at the maize and wheat center, told me, "we will need to produce as much food as has been consumed over our entire human history."

Geneticists there and at the rice institute showed me experiments

testing how to hot-rod photosynthesis, in hopes of increasing plant productivity up to 50 percent more than previous Green Revolution yields, and possibly to give grains enough energy to fix their own nitrogen, which could minimize artificial fertilizer needs. But, everyone acknowledged, even if it can be done, commercially viable enhanced-photosynthesizing crops are at least 25 years away. And by then, there will be billions more of us.

Moreover, food technologists face another growing problem spawned by growing populations: As ever more of us expel carbon, our overloaded atmosphere overheats the planet. Grains have temperature thresholds; for every 1 degree centigrade of warming, the National Academy of Science reports, harvests drop 10 percent. With our world now headed beyond a 2-degree centigrade increase at present emission rates, population will be up, food production down, irrigation water scarcer—and coastal dikes may have to protect much of the world's rice production from encroaching sea water. All in all, an expensive scenario. Rosy predictions that northern Canada and Siberia will be breadbaskets in a warmer world neglect that their conifer-covered, acidic soils will take millennia to adapt to the needs of crops.

The late economist Julian Simon, who believed that human ingenuity ensured that resources would never run out, won a 1980 bet with Paul Ehrlich that prices of five commodity metals wouldn't rise due to growing scarcity over the coming decade. (As the Economist and others later reported, in subsequent decades Ehrlich would have won, yet their bet is still often cited to discredit his warnings.) In 1994, Simon, ever the cornucopian, declared, "We now have the technology to feed, clothe and supply energy to an ever-growing population for the next 7 billion years."






With world population then growing by 1.4% annually, Paul and Anne Ehrlich checked Simon's math and responded that this was unlikely: Within 6,000 years, the mass of human population would equal the mass of the universe.

Today, we're growing at a slightly slower rate, but the U.N. still projects more than 3 billion more of us this century. With nearly 20,000 children now dying of hunger daily, and with temperatures rising, we're running out of tricks to squeeze more out of a planet already bursting its seams. To argue that even though the Earth can't grow, we still can, is dreaming.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

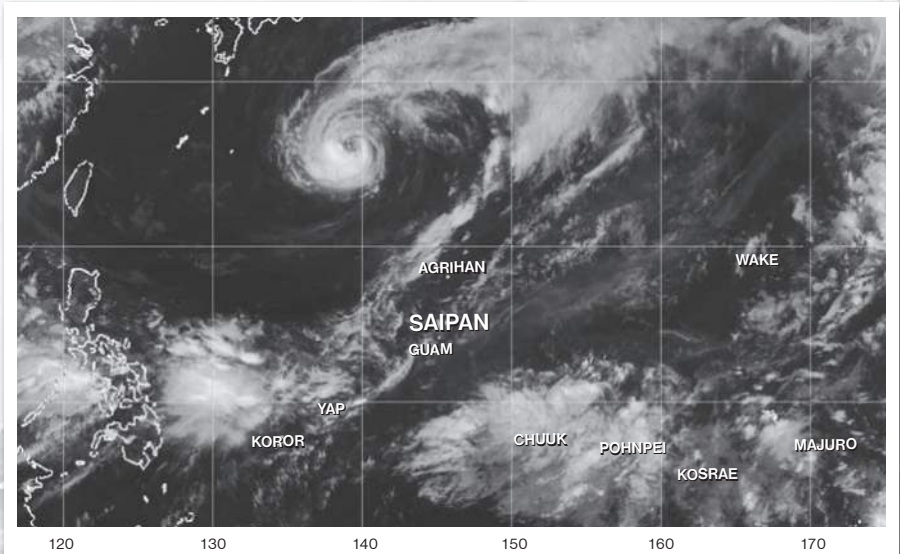
TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°

Micronesia		
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 74
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

Around The Globe		
Auckland	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 58
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 50
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 75
London	Fog	▲ 70 ▼ 58
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 61
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 51
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
New York	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 68
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲ 76 ▼ 58
Pusan	Windy	▲ 77 ▼ 62
Rome	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 59
Salem	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 49
San Francisco	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 56
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 74 ▼ 53
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 79 ▼ 71
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 76 ▼ 56

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:31 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:19 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
6:55 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
11:47 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Pabuk is located near 26N140E. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms can be found within 200 miles of the center. The typhoon is moving northwest at 06 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. For more information on Typhoon Pabuk, see bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A monsoon trough enters the discussion area near 16N130E and continues to 18N136E through Typhoon Pabuk then turns southeast across the Marianas to 11N147E to 10N151E to a circulation north of Pohnpei near 10N158E. Low-level convergence south of the trough is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near and north of Palau and Yap or between 9N and 15N from 130E to 140E and within 100 miles of a line that stretches from 14N140E to 24N150E and covers part of the Northern Marianas and over Chuuk and Pohnpei states between 3N and 11N from 145E to 161E. A surface trough stretches across eastern Micronesia from 6N164E to 12N173E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found west of Majuro between 5N and 8N from 166E to 171E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Majuro between the equator and 4N from 174E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:06 AM	6:11 PM	Today	10:32 PM	10:52 AM
Thursday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	Thursday	11:21 PM	11:41 AM
Friday	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	Friday		12:29 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	Saturday	12:09 AM	1:14 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:08 PM	Sunday	12:58 AM	1:58 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
 - For announcements:**
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2013

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily	UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	Daily	UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	UA5038	10:10am	10:45am	6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
				UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	DL288	8:55pm	1:30am+1	Daily
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM	KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT	SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:45pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA5074/PR111	11:20am	4:45pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA5072	7:35am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM	DL172/288	7:55am	1:30am+1	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN	UA184/5071	10:25pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM	OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
				OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
				OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
				UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Guam				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

SBDC launches CNMI Business Resource Guide

The Commerce Department's CNMI Small Business Development Center, with assistance from the Commonwealth Development Authority, is now distributing the 2013 CNMI Business Resource Guide. The new guide will be available at Commerce, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and CDA. The

guide will also be available to all interested individuals who are or will be doing business in the CNMI.

Entrepreneurs and investors will find a valuable compilation of relevant business information, as well as public and private business resources to make the process of doing business

in CNMI easier. This is done by setting out all of the basic information that businesses operating in the CNMI need to know, and by providing contact information to professional and industry specialists that can help you start up, grow and expand your business.

"With proper planning, sound

management practices, well-trained employees, the appropriate level of investment, and access to credible sources of business information, the Department of Commerce's CNMI SBDC believes that you will have laid the foundations for a bright and prosperous business future in CNMI," said CNMI SBDC director Perry Inos Jr.

The CNMI Small Business Development Center is a member of the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network. Its mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated islands in the Western Pacific by providing free, one-to-one, confidential business counseling, and high quality training to existing

and prospective small businesses.

To request copy, contact the CNMI SBDC at 664-3018. If you are interested in the CNMI SBDC's services, contact Lynette Sablan at lynette@pacificsbdc.com. The CNMI SBDC office hours are from Monday to Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, and closed on holidays. (*Office of the Governor*)

Apple's sales of new iPhones off to fast start

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gadget lovers still can't resist the iPhone's seductive call, even amid a bevy of enticing lower-priced alternatives that offer similar features.

In a Monday announcement, Apple Inc. said it sold 9 million units of its top-of-the-line iPhone 5S and less-expensive iPhone 5C during their first three days on sale. That trounced the performance of last year's model, the iPhone 5, which sold 5 million units in its opening weekend.

The initial sales figures for Apple's latest iPhone models provided the latest testament to the product's enduring appeal more than six years after the debut of the first iPhone triggered a mobile computing revolution.

The iPhone 5S and 5C's quick start also surpassed analyst forecasts that pre-

dicted Apple would sell somewhere from 6 million to 8 million models during the first weekend.

"The demand for the new iPhones has been incredible," Apple CEO Tim Cook crowed in a statement. As part of the company's effort to drum up interest in its most profitable product, Cook made an early-morning appearance at an Apple store in Palo Alto, Calif. on Friday when the new iPhones first went on sale.

Monday's positive news helped generate more interest in Apple's stock. The shares gained \$23.23, or 5 percent, to close at \$490.64.

Despite that rally, Apple's stock price remains slightly below where it stood before the Cupertino, Calif. company's Sept. 10 unveiling of its latest iPhones.

The downturn reflects con-

cerns that the new phones won't be enough to reverse a slowdown in Apple's revenue growth that has been brought on by tougher competition from Samsung Electronics and others. Apple's rivals have been gaining market share by selling less expensive phones running on Google Inc.'s free Android software. Those nagging worries are the main reason that Apple's market value has sagged by about 30 percent, or \$200 billion, since last year's release of the iPhone 5.

Part of this weekend's higher iPhone sales volume stemmed from Apple's decision to make the latest models available on a broader scale than in past years. For instance, this marked the first time that a new iPhone has gone on sale in China at the same time that the product also launched in the U.S.

Microsoft unveils new Surface, fixes shortcomings



A new Surface 2 tablet computer and docking station are introduced, Monday, Sept. 23, 2013 in New York. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—Microsoft refreshed its Surface tablet computers Monday, giving them longer battery life and better comfort on laps as the software giant continues its transformation into a devices and services company.

The company said it tried to address many shortcomings of the first-generation Surface models, sales of which have been slow. Microsoft needs to boost its tablet business to make up for sales declines in traditional desktop and laptop computers. IDC is forecasting a nearly 10 percent decline in PC shipments this year. The research firm also said tablets will outsell traditional PCs in the last three months of the year.

The new tablet models come with a better built-in kickstand so they can rest more firmly on users' laps while they sit on the couch. Microsoft is also making a docking station and a wireless mouse for business customers who need the mobility of tablets but also desire the traditional ways of using computers while in the office.

"We've definitely gotten a year smarter," Brian Hall, general

manager of sales and marketing for Surface, said in an interview.

The redesigned Surface tablets come at a time of transition for Microsoft. Earlier this month, Microsoft struck a deal to acquire Nokia's phone and services business for \$7.2 billion. The company is also searching for a new CEO to replace Steven A. Ballmer, who announced last month that he plans to retire within the next year.

The Surface Pro 2 is targeted at professionals who want the full power of a laptop in a tablet-style device. With a starting price of \$899, the Pro 2 uses a full version of the upcoming Windows 8.1, meaning it can run any program written for Windows desktops and laptops.

The Pro 2 promises 75 percent more battery life than the debut Pro model, which came out in February. Microsoft, which did not specify the number of hours of expected use, said the improvement comes partly from the use of Intel's Haswell chip, which uses less energy. There's also an optional Power Cover accessory that extends battery life even further.

A cheaper model, Surface 2,

offers a 25 percent improvement in battery life, which means it can get up to 10 hours of use. It also has a better screen compared with last October's Surface RT. It uses Windows RT 8.1, meaning it can run only apps specifically designed for it. Microsoft said it now has 100,000 apps, or 10 times what was available last year. Like other RT tablets, Microsoft is including a version of its Office software for free with the Surface 2. But now, the package will have the Outlook email and calendar program, not just Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Microsoft is selling the Surface 2 starting at \$449 and will continue to offer last year's Surface RT for \$349.

The Surface 2 and the Surface Pro 2 will come with 200 gigabytes of free online storage through SkyDrive for two years, as well as free calls and Wi-Fi hotspots through Skype for a year. The new tablets will go on sale Oct. 22, a few days after Microsoft releases its 8.1 update to its Windows 8 operating system on Oct. 17. The screen on both new models remains at 10.6 inches, measured diagonally.

Fairfax reaches tentative deal to buy BlackBerry

TORONTO (AP)—BlackBerry's largest shareholder has reached a tentative agreement to pay \$4.7 billion for the troubled smartphone maker, even as many investors fret about its potential demise.

BlackBerry Ltd. said Monday that Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd. has signed a letter of intent that "contemplates" buying the company for \$9 per share in cash in a deal that would take the company private. The tentative deal comes just days after the Canadian company announced plans to lay off 40 percent of its global workforce. The offer price is below what BlackBerry was trading at before the layoff announcement.

Analysts say that although BlackBerry's hardware business is not worth anything, the company still owns valuable patents. Patents on wireless technologies have exploded in value in recent years, as makers of the iPhone

and various Android devices sue each other. Having a strong portfolio of patents allows phone makers to defend themselves and work out deals.

BlackBerry is also strong in having total cash and investments of about \$2.6 billion, with no debt, though it's burning through that stockpile. In just the past few months, it's spent about half a billion dollars.

The possible BlackBerry deal follows a \$7.2 billion offer that Microsoft Corp. made this month for the phones and services business of another troubled phone maker, Nokia Corp. Last year, Google Inc. paid \$12.4 billion for another fallen pioneer, Motorola Mobility, mostly for its patents.

The BlackBerry, pioneered in 1999, was once the dominant smartphone for on-the-go business people and other consumers. It could be so addictive that it was nicknamed

"the CrackBerry." President Barack Obama couldn't bear to part with his BlackBerry. Oprah Winfrey declared it one of her "favorite things." But then came a new generation of competing smartphones, starting with Apple's iPhone in 2007. The BlackBerry, that game-changing breakthrough in personal connectedness, suddenly looked ancient.

Although BlackBerry was once Canada's most valuable company with a market value of \$83 billion in June 2008, the stock has plummeted to less than \$9 from over \$140 a share, giving it a market value of \$4.6 billion, just short of Fairfax's offer.

BlackBerry shares plunged 17 percent Friday after the company announced a quarterly loss of nearly \$1 billion and layoffs of 4,500 workers. It gained 9 cents, or 1.1 percent, to \$8.82 Monday.



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
15,401.38	1,701.84	3,765.29
49.71	8.07	9.44
-0.32%	-0.47%	-0.25%

EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.0626	Indian Rupee	62.6263	Singapore Dollar	1.2528
British Pound	0.6241	Indonesian Rupiah	11436.14	South Korean Won	1072.50
Canadian Dollar	1.0287	Japanese Yen	98.9549	Swiss Franc	0.9109
Chinese Yuan	6.1247	Malaysian Ringgit	3.2028	Taiwan Dollar	29.565
Euro	0.7409	New Zealand Dollar	1.1995	Thailand Baht	31.2531

Nation

Navy officials push for security clearance changes

WASHINGTON (AP)—A week after an IT contractor gunned down 12 workers at the Washington Navy Yard, Navy officials began moving to close gaps in the security clearance process, recommending that all

police reports involving an individual must be included when a background check is done. The Navy, in a report released Monday, revealed that the shooter, Aaron Alexis, did not disclose a 2004 arrest or

some financial problems when he filled out his application for a security clearance when he joined the Navy as a reservist several years later. And officials said the background report given to the Navy at

the time, also failed to reveal that he had shot out the tires of another person's car during a 2004 dispute in Seattle. Instead, the report from the Office of Personnel Management, said Aaron Alexis "deflated" the tires, and did not mention the use of a gun.

Defense officials have acknowledged that a lot of red flags were missed in Alexis' background, allowing him to maintain a secret security clearance and have access to a secure Navy facility despite a string of behavioral problems and brushes with the law. Over the past week, they have been struggling to determine what might have been missed, and what changes could be made in order to try and prevent similar violence in the future.

So far, however, the detailed reviews only underscore how subjective the security checks can be and how difficult it is to

predict violent behavior based only on minor conduct issues that could easily be overlooked. A review of Alexis' nearly four-year Navy career, ordered last week by Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, revealed that the full scope of the 2004 arrest was not included in the security clearance report. According to a senior Navy official, the police report included information about Alexis shooting out the tires of another man's car, after a recurring dispute over parking. Alexis was arrested, charged with malicious mischief, fingerprinted and spent the night in jail. But when he appeared in court the charges were dismissed and he believed the incident was erased from his record.

The OPM report, provided to the Navy, left out the gun in its description of the incident, saying that Alexis deflated the man's tires in retaliation for

the man putting an unknown substance in Alexis' gas tank. It was not clear Monday who was at fault for the omission. Officials said they didn't know if the summary provided to the Navy was compiled by OPM, or if it was put together by the company that investigated Alexis for his clearance—USIS—and passed on to OPM. The discrepancy, however, prompted Mabus to recommend to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel that all police reports—not just arrests—be included in a security check. He also recommended Monday that the Navy enhance its management of sailor evaluations and fitness reports by assigning more senior officers to oversee them.

Hagel has ordered two sweeping reviews of military security and employee screening programs, and Mabus' recommendation will be considered as part of those studies.

Aaron Alexis: A life that went astray

Many events that could have alerted authorities to the troubled mental state of alleged Washington Navy Yard shooter Aaron Alexis were not caught by background checks and other safeguards.

What was known		What was missed
	2004	May 6 Alexis arrested in Seattle for shooting out tires on construction workers' car; charges dropped
May 5 Enlists in Navy Reserve August U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) completes background check for security clearance	2007	OPM recommends that Defense Department (DOD) grant security clearance despite having found the 2004 arrest
Feb. 1 Employed at Naval Air Station, Fort Worth, Texas, with Fleet Logistics Support Squadron 46 March 8 Gets "secret" security clearance good for 10 years	2008	Aug. 10 Tossed from Atlanta-area nightclub after damaging furniture; charged with disorderly conduct; after two nights in jail, charges dropped
Dec. Wins Navy appeal; rank restored with back pay	2009	Spring Negative performance review "severe lapse in judgment on number of occasions" July Navy reduces rank, cuts pay in half for two months
Feb. Good Navy performance review; "highly motivated" ... "team player" ... "an asset"	2010	Sept. 5. Arrested in Fort Worth (mugshot left); reckless discharge of firearm after his gun is fired through ceiling and upper neighbor's floor; charge dropped
Jan. 31 Ends work at Fort Worth Naval Air Station; honorably discharged from Navy	2011	Navy had pursued less-positive general discharge after multiple disciplinary problems but allows Alexis to apply for early-release program that includes honorable discharge
Sept. 12 Passes routine background check and hired as computer technician by The Experts, a Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., subcontractor of Hewlett-Packard	2012	Employment check fails to pick up past problems; DOD confirms security clearance is active; provides no data on past arrests or Navy disciplinary steps
June 13 Passes routine background check and rehired by The Experts after six-month break to attend school	2013	Second employment check again doesn't uncover past problems; DOD again confirms active security clearance; no warnings of checkered past Aug. 5-6 Hotel staff in Middletown, R.I., talk with Alexis' employer after his bizarre behavior scares other guests; company employee says he's unstable and it is "bringing him home" according to hotel logs reported in New York Times Aug. 7 Alexis calls police from hotel in Newport, R.I.; tells arriving officers three people have followed him from Va., are "sending vibrations into his body" with microwaves; police notify local Navy base; report doesn't reach Navy headquarters Aug. 23 Visits Providence, R.I., VA hospital ER for insomnia; prescribed Trazadone, an anti-depressant and sleep aid Aug. 28 Visits VA hospital ER, Washington, D.C., denies having feelings of anxiety or "thoughts about harming himself or others;" refills Trazadone Sept. 14 Takes target practice and buys Remington 870 12-gauge shotgun at range and gun shop in Lorton, Va., near Washington, D.C.

Report: Environmental chemicals a pregnancy risk

WASHINGTON (AP)—From mercury to pesticides, Americans are exposed daily to environmental chemicals that could harm reproductive health, the nation's largest groups of obstetricians and fertility specialists said Monday.

The report urges doctors to push for stricter environmental policies to better identify and reduce exposure to chemicals that prove truly risky. But it's likely to scare pregnant women in the meantime.

That's because during the first prenatal visit, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists wants doctors to ask mothers-to-be about their exposure to different chemicals. They're also supposed to teach women how to avoid some considered most worrisome during pregnancy. "What we're trying to get is

the balance between awareness and alarmist," said Dr. Jeanne Conry, president of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

Specialists with ACOG and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine examined research about industrial chemicals and pollutants that people can absorb from the air, water, food and everyday products. Few chemicals hit the market with good information about safe levels—something the groups hope to change. But certain chemicals are linked to infertility, miscarriages, birth defects and other problems, the committee said.

Risks are greatest for women with high on-the-job exposure. So doctors should ask about workplaces during that first prenatal visit, the committee advised.

But the report also cited research suggesting virtually every pregnant woman is exposed to at least 43 different chemicals. It's unclear how many matter, but some can reach the fetus. For example, mercury pollution builds up in certain fish, and when eaten by a mother-to-be, can damage her unborn baby's developing brain. Prenatal exposure to certain pesticides can increase the risk of childhood cancer, the report found.

Poor and minority populations are disproportionately exposed to various pollutants, urging doctors to be aware of concerns unique to where they live, the committee said.

It's not just about pregnancy. High enough pesticide exposure in adult men has been linked to sterility and prostate cancer, the report noted.

ACROSS THE NATION

Ex-FBI agent to plead guilty to being AP source

WASHINGTON (AP)—A former FBI explosives expert said Monday he will plead guilty to revealing secret information for an Associated Press story about a U.S. intelligence operation in Yemen in 2012. The story led to a leaks investigation and the seizure of AP phone records in the government's search for the information's source. Donald Sachtleben of Carmel, Ind., said in court papers that he provided details of the operation to a reporter. Four months ago, Sachtleben also acknowledged he distributed and possessed pornographic images of underage girls. A plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court in Indianapolis calls for 11 years and eight months in prison for both crimes.

2 charged in Chicago park shooting that wounded 13

CHICAGO (AP)—Two men have been charged in connection with a shooting last week at a Chicago park that injured 13 people, including

a 3-year-old boy, Chicago officials announced Monday night. Authorities say Bryon Champ, 21, and Kewane Gatewood, 20, were charged with attempted murder and aggravated battery with a firearm in the shooting Thursday at Cornell Square Park on Chicago's southwest side. The suspects' home towns were not revealed. Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy said that while the two played significant roles in the shooting, neither is believed to have pulled the trigger.

Burger King launching lower-calorie french fry

NEW YORK (AP)—Burger King wants people to feel less guilty about gobbling up its french fries. The world's No. 2 hamburger chain is launching a new crinkle-cut french fry on Tuesday that it says has 20 percent fewer calories than its regular french fries. The chain says a small order of the new "Satisfries" clocks in at 270 calories because of a new batter that doesn't absorb as much oil. By comparison, a small order of its regular fries, sans crinkles, has 350 calories.

Asia

Landslides kill 20 in northwest Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Torrential monsoon rains hit the northwestern Philippines on Monday, triggering landslides and killing 20 people in areas already weakened by a powerful typhoon, and raising the death toll to 47 from storms across Asia.

Philippine officials said soldiers and villagers were also searching for at least seven people missing in mountainside villages hit by the landslides Monday in the province of Zambales.

In China, where Typhoon Usagi struck after passing by the Philippines, officials said the storm killed 25 people in the southern province of Guangdong, 13 of them in the city of Shanwei where it struck the coast late Sunday.

The other deaths came when two people drowned when a passenger boat capsized in northeastern Aurora province in the Philippines.

Subic Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun said 15 bodies were dug out in two landslide-hit villages in his town. Five people also died in landslides in two other towns in Zambales, according to army officials and police.

Rescuers used their hands,



Vehicles cross a flooded street in Manila, Philippines Sunday Sept. 22, 2013.

AP

pots and shovels to dig through the muck that buried a cluster of houses while relatives of two

other missing residents waited in the rain in the village of Wawandue.

"This is the first after a long time that we were hit by this kind of deluge," Khonghun told

Manila's DZBB radio network. He had to stop the interview after another body was pulled out

from a muddy heap near him.

Typhoon Usagi enhanced the torrential monsoon rains that drenched the main northern Philippine region of Luzon over the weekend. The powerful typhoon blew away late Saturday and a new tropical storm off southern Japan was continuing to intensify the downpours in Luzon, government forecaster Samuel Duran said.

Many low-lying areas of the Philippine capital, Manila, and outlying regions were swamped Monday, prompting authorities to cancel classes and office work.

In Hong Kong, flight schedules were returning to normal Monday after major disruptions from Usagi, which was the season's strongest storm at its peak. It forced about 250 flight cancellations in Hong Kong before weakening to a tropical depression over the southern Chinese province of Guangdong.

Train and airline services around Guangdong also were back to normal after the storm, China's state broadcaster CCTV said.

China's national weather center said the storm would continue to weaken as it moves northwest.

Filipino rebels free hostages seized in attack

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Muslim rebels opposed to peace talks with the Philippine government released nine teachers and four village officials Tuesday a day after taking hostages in an attack on a southern town that killed 10 people, including a civilian who was decapitated, officials said.

This week's violence came as government troops battled the last few dozen gunmen from another Muslim rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front, which on Sept. 9 took more than 100 civilians hostage and occupied areas of Zamboanga city.

About 40 Moro rebels holding around 20 hostages are still holed up in Zamboanga, military spokesman Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala said.

It was not known if the two attacks were related but the

leaders of the two groups have met at least once and both oppose the peace talks involving the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In the latest attack Monday, fighters of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters assaulted an outpost of unarmed government militiamen in Midsayap town in North Cotabato province and seized more than a dozen hostages. As army troops closed in, clashes broke out and the rebels used their captives as human shields, said regional military spokesman Col. Dickson Hermoso said.

Four soldiers and four rebels were killed, he said.

Troops on Tuesday recovered the bodies of two civilians, one of whom was decapitated and another shot in the head, said another mil-

itary spokesman, Col. Dickson Hermoso.

Some hostages later escaped or were freed by the troops, while the remaining nine teachers and four officials were set free at 4:45 a.m. Tuesday, the military said.

"The rebels suddenly arrived there. Some were not even wearing their uniforms and just changed into their uniforms there," Loreto Cabaya, a member of the North Cotabato provincial board, told GMA News TV network.

The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters is a faction of the larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front, now the dominant Muslim rebel group engaged in peace talks for a new autonomy deal for minority Muslims in the south of the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

East Timor bans martial arts clubs amid killings

DILI, East Timor (AP)—East Timor police say there will be zero tolerance against those who continue to practice a local martial art after the government banned all clubs following deadly gang violence, an official said Monday.

At least 12 East Timorese have been killed and more than 200 injured in the past two years as a result of fighting among rival pencak silat clubs, said Armando Monteiro, National Police detective chief. Two were killed in neighboring Indonesia, while other deaths and injuries have occurred as far away as England and Ireland. He said the number of casualties is likely higher since many people are afraid to report gang activity or go to the hospital for treatment.

"Any martial arts clubs members that violate the government resolution will

be dealt with under the law," Monteiro said. There will be "zero tolerance for martial arts activities in the country."

Schools and clubs for pencak silat, an adapted form of the Indonesian martial art, have a long history in East Timor, with many students in the past fighting against Indonesia's military occupation. They also became active clandestine members in supporting guerrilla fighters and some made significant contributions toward winning the country's independence in 2002.

Later, martial arts students became rivals and began killing each other in the streets as happened in 2006 during a violent political crisis that left dozens dead and tens of thousands displaced in the tiny half-island nation.

In many villages across East Timor, students start learning

pencak silat at age 13. Less popular martial arts, such as karate, kung fu, taekwondo and judo, are not banned.

Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao issued a resolution outlawing the popular clubs two months ago. He said he has tried to work with the groups for years to allow them to continue to operate peacefully, but said the original purpose and philosophy of martial arts has been lost in East Timor.

"I have no more mercy and no more patience," said Gusmao, who added he has tried to work with the groups since becoming the country's first president in 2002. "I cannot tolerate the situation anymore, and I cannot permit it anymore."

Gusmao said police and members of the military have been told to leave martial arts groups or be fired.

Afghanistan: Taliban kill 11 border police guards

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—An overnight Taliban assault on a border post in southern Afghanistan left 11 police officers dead, while in the north of the country gunmen assassinated a district intelligence chief on his way to work, officials said Monday.

Meanwhile, authorities in Romania said two of their soldiers serving with the NATO coalition in Afghanistan died in a roadside bombing in the east.

The Taliban have stepped up attacks on the security forces, officials and government employees during their spring offensive this year.

In the latest ambush, gunmen sprayed official Abdul Hussain with bullets as he was riding on his motorcycle Monday morning near the city of Kunduz, the capital of the province with the same name, according to local police chief Ghulam Mohayuddin.

Hussain, who was heading to his work in Chardara district, died of his wounds, said the police chief. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

An Afghan security official meanwhile said the Taliban have attacked a border police checkpoint in the country's south near the border with Pakistan, killing 11 policemen.

Gen. Tafser Khan of the south-

ern border police said that the attack took place late Sunday night in the Shorabak district of Kandahar province, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

A spokesman for the Taliban, Qari Yousef Ahamdi, claimed responsibility for the attack in a phone call to The Associated Press.

Khan says there was heavy fighting between police and insurgents, but the Taliban had more fighters and overcame the policemen. There were no re-

ports on insurgent casualties.

Meanwhile, the Romanian Defense Ministry said two Romanian soldiers died after stepping on a bomb during a patrol in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday.

The two were transported by helicopter to a military hospital near Kabul where they died of their injuries later in the day.

Defense Minister Mircea Dusa said in televised comments Monday that other soldiers were killed in the explosion but provided no further details. The

two Romanians were identified as Vasile Popa, 28, on his second mission to Afghanistan, and Adrian Postelnicu, 34, who was on his first mission.

Romania has 1,029 troops serving in the NATO mission in Afghanistan; 22 have been killed.

In Kabul, NATO only said that a roadside bombing killed two international service members in the east on Sunday but gave no details on their nationality nor mentioned any other troops dying in the attack.

World

Kenyan mall: Gunfire, blast at daybreak Tuesday

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Kenyan security forces battled al-Qaida-linked terrorists in an upscale mall for a fourth day Tuesday in what they said was a final push to rescue the last few hostages in a siege that has left at least 62 people dead.

Despite Kenyan government assurances of success on Twitter, another explosion and more gunfire could be heard coming from the mall at around 6:30 a.m. local time on Tuesday, Associated Press reporters at the scene said. Security forces carried a body out of the mall, which remained on fire, with flames and smoke visible.

While the government announced Sunday that “most” hostages had been released, a security expert with contacts inside the mall said at least 10 were still being held by a band of attackers described as “a multinational collection from all over the world.”

Kenyan Foreign Minister Amina Mohamed said “two or three Americans” and “one Brit” were among those who attacked the mall.

She said in an interview with the PBS “NewsHour” program that the Americans were 18 to 19 years old, of Somali or Arab origin and lived “in Minnesota and one other place” in the

The terror continues

What is known about the siege of Westgate Mall in Nairobi:

SATURDAY (Day 1)

- **Around noon** People sitting outside ArtCaffe say between six and 16 people armed with assault weapons drive up to the main entrance, throw grenades, fire shots, killing people outside the mall
- **Minutes later** More militants storm main entrance, begin shooting on main floor, then work their way up the mall
- **Half hour later** Police arrive; shooting continues, shoppers hide where they can
- **About an hour after the siege began** Security forces begin to sweep mall; those who escape say militants are releasing Muslims, keeping others as hostages
- **Around 9 p.m.** An al-Shabab Twitter account tweets responsibility

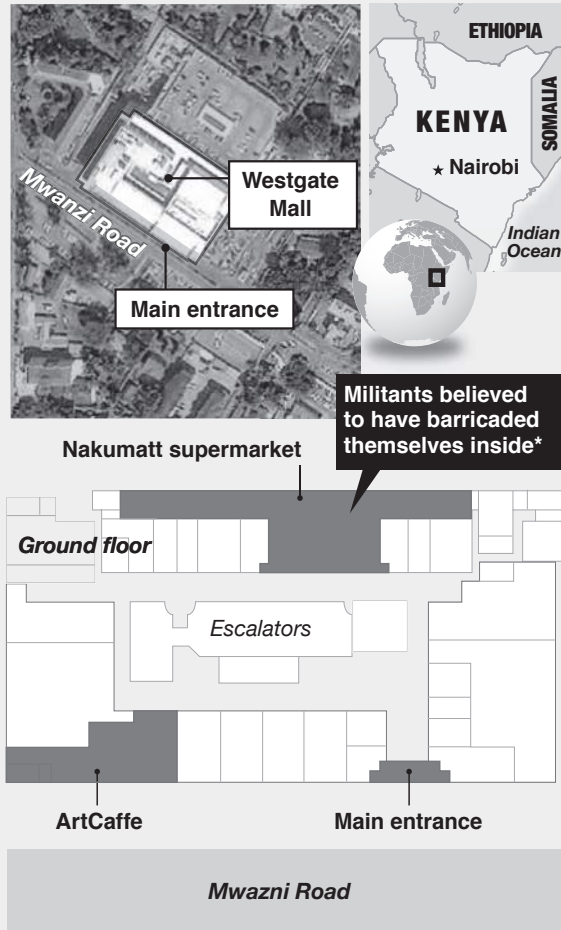
11 p.m. Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta addresses nation, saying that 39 people had been killed, including his family members

SUNDAY (Day 2)

- **Morning** Four people rescued, two injured soldiers evacuated
- **By noon** Kenyan interior minister says about 1,000 people rescued, 59 killed
- **Sunday night** Security forces launch what they say is final assault to free hostages
- 11 p.m.** Military spokesman tweets that most hostages have been freed, most of building is secure

MONDAY (Day 3)

- **Around lunchtime** Series of blasts rocks the mall, sparking speculation that militants had set off bombs; death toll up to 69



*Supermarket covers two floors, only ground floorplan shown

Source: ESRI, Aerogrid, AEX, GeoEye, Getmapping, i-cubed, IGN, IGP, the GIS User Community, USDA, USGS, BBC, AP, New York Times
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Pat Carr
© 2013 MCT

U.S. The attacker from Britain was a woman who has “done this many times before,” Mohamed said.

U.S. officials said they were looking into whether any Americans were involved. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday that the department had “no definitive evidence of the nationalities or the identities” of the attackers.

The security expert, who insisted on anonymity to talk freely about the situation, said many hostages had been freed or escaped in the previous 24-36 hours, including some who were in hiding.

However, there were at least 30 hostages when the assault by al-Shabab militants began Saturday, he said, and “it’s clear” that Kenyan security officials “haven’t cleared the building fully.”

Somalia’s al-Qaida-linked rebel group, al-Shabab, which claimed responsibility for the attack, said the hostage-takers were well-armed and ready to take on the Kenyan forces.

Flames and dark plumes of smoke rose Monday above the Westgate shopping complex for more than an hour after four large explosions rocked the surrounding neighborhood. The smoke was pouring through a large sky-

light inside the mall’s main department and grocery store, where mattresses and other flammable goods appeared to have been set on fire, a person with knowledge of the rescue operation told The Associated Press.

The explosions were followed by volleys of gunfire as police helicopters and a military jet circled overhead, giving the neighborhood the feel of a war zone.

By Monday evening, Kenyan security officials claimed the upper hand.

“Taken control of all the floors. We’re not here to feed the attackers with pastries but to finish and punish them,” Police Inspector General David Kimaiyo said on Twitter.

Kenya’s Interior Minister Joseph Ole Lenku said the evacuation of hostages had gone “very, very well” and that Kenyan officials were “very certain” that few if any hostages were left in the building.

But with the mall cordoned off and under heavy security it was not possible to independently verify the assertions. Similar claims of a quick resolution were made by Kenyan officials on Sunday and the siege continued. Authorities have also not provided any details on how many hostages were freed or how many still remain captive.

Assad: Syria committed to destroy chemical weapons

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)—President Bashar Assad pledged in an interview broadcast Monday to honor an agreement to surrender Syria’s stockpile of chemical weapons, but he said that rebels might try to block international arms inspectors from doing their work.

As battles continued across Syria, new Associated Press video of an attack Sunday night showed the regime’s helicopters dropping barrel bombs on opposition-held areas, creating chaotic scenes of destruction.

In a sign of worsening infighting among the rebels, a top al-Qaida commander in Syria was killed in an ambush by rival, Western-backed group—an assassination sure to raise tensions among factions seeking to topple the regime.

Assad’s comments came as world leaders gathered in New York for the annual U.N. General Assembly, where the use of chemical weapons in Syria’s civil war was high on the agenda.

The Syrian leader told Chinese state TV that Damascus is dedicated to implementing the agreement reached between Russia and the U.S. to surrender its chemical weapons to international control. Syria’s stockpile, he said, is “in safe areas and locations and under the full con-

trol of the Syrian Arab Army.”

Assad cautioned, however, that the rebels might block inspectors from reaching some of the locations, in order to frame the government.

“I’m referring to places where gunmen exist. Those gunmen might want to stop the experts’ arrival,” Assad told CCTV in the interview, which was shot Sunday in Damascus and broadcast Monday.

Under the agreement brokered Sept. 14 in Geneva, inspectors are to be in Syria by November and all components of the chemical weapons program are to be removed from the country or destroyed by the middle of next year.

The revelations of Syria’s chemical weapons arsenal became public after an Aug. 21 attack near Damascus that a U.N. report found included the use of the nerve agent sarin. Hundreds of people died in the attack that brought Washington to the brink of military intervention before the accord was struck between the U.S. and Russia.

The U.N. inspectors face enormous challenges, including maneuvering between rebel- and government-controlled territory. Last month, snipers opened fire on a U.N. convoy carrying a team on its way to investigate the Aug. 21 incident.

US edges closer to high-level talks with Iran

NEW YORK (AP)—The Obama administration edged close to direct, high-level talks with Iran’s new government on Monday, with Secretary of State John Kerry slated to meet his Iranian counterpart this week and the White House weighing the risks and rewards of an encounter between President Barack Obama and Iran’s president, Hasan Rouhani.

An Obama-Rouhani exchange on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly would mark the first meeting at that high level for the two nations in more than 30 years. Such talks could signal a turning point in U.S.-Iranian relations—but also could be seen as a premature endorsement for a new Iranian government that has yet to answer key questions about the future of its disputed nuclear program.

Obama advisers said no meeting was scheduled. But they added that the U.S. planned to take advantage of diplomatic opportunities while in New York and indicated they were not leaving a possible encounter between Obama and Rouhani to chance.

“I don’t think that anything would happen by happenstance on a relationship and an issue that is this important,” Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser, told reporters

traveling with the president to New York.

The election of Rouhani, a moderate cleric, has led to speculation about possible progress on Iran’s nuclear impasse with the U.S. Particularly intriguing to American officials are Rouhani’s assertions that his government has “complete authority” in nuclear negotiations. That would be a marked change from previous governments and their relationship with Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The U.S. and its allies have long suspected that Iran is trying to produce a nuclear weapon, though Tehran insists its nuclear activities are only for producing energy and for medical research.

American officials say Rouhani’s change in tone is driven by the Iranian public’s frustration with crippling economic sanctions levied by the U.S. But it is still unclear whether Iran is willing to take the steps the U.S. is seeking in order to ease the sanctions, including curbing uranium enrichment and shutting down the underground Fordo nuclear facility.

State Department officials said Kerry would seek to answer that question on Thursday when new Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif joins nuclear talks between the U.S. and five other world powers.



BEACHED DOLPHINS

In this photo released by the Voz de Areia Branca, a community news blog, biologists inspect a dead dolphin on Upanema beach in the Areia Branca municipality of Rio Grande do Norte state, Brazil, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013. Around 30 large dolphins known as false killer whales beached themselves in northeastern Brazil. O Globo newspaper reported Monday that at least seven of the animals died, six of them on the Upanema beach. O Globo said one animal died following an apparent shark attack after it was returned to the ocean.

AP

Focus

Sea Change: A chilling view of tomorrow's waters

Ocean acidification is helping push the seas toward a great unraveling that threatens to scramble marine life on a scale almost too big to fathom—and far faster than first expected.

By **CRAIG WELCH**
THE SEATTLE TIMES

First of a three-part series

NORMANBY ISLAND, Papua New Guinea—Katharina Fabricius plunged from a dive boat into the Pacific Ocean of tomorrow.

A bleak portrait emerged: Instead of tiered jungles of branching, leafy corals, Fabricius saw mud, stubby spires and squat boulder corals. Snails and clams were mostly gone, as were worms, colorful sea squirts and ornate feather stars.

Instead of a brilliant coral reef like the one living a few hundred yards away, what the Australian Institute of Marine Sciences ecologist found resembled a slimy lake bottom. The cause: carbon dioxide.

In this volcanic region, pure CO₂ escapes naturally through cracks in the ocean floor, altering the water's chemistry the same way rising CO₂ from cars and power plants is changing the marine world.

As a result, this isolated bay offers a chilling view of the future of the seas under ocean acidification.

As the burning of coal, oil and natural gas belches carbon dioxide into the air, a quarter of it gets absorbed by the seas, changing ocean chemistry faster than at any time in human history.

To understand how that will alter the seas, *The Seattle Times* crisscrossed the Pacific Ocean from Papua New Guinea to Alaska, interviewed nearly 150 experts and people

most likely to be affected, and reviewed most of the peer-reviewed studies.

The Times found that ocean acidification is helping push the seas toward a great unraveling that threatens to scramble marine life on a scale almost too big to fathom—and far faster than first expected.

Already, it has killed billions of oysters along the Washington coast and at nearby hatcheries. It's helped destroy mussels on some Northwest shores. It is a suspect in the softening of clam shells and in the death of some baby scallops. It already is dissolving tiny plankton, called pteropods, in Antarctica that are eaten by many ocean creatures—and that wasn't expected for 25 years.

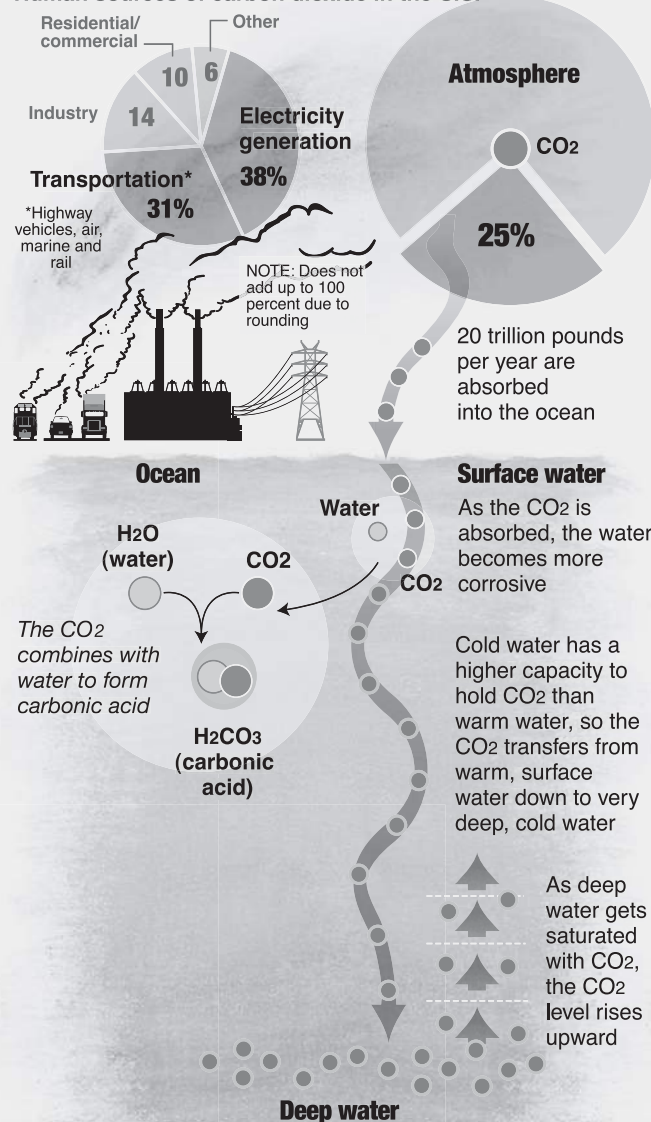
The problem: When carbon dioxide mixes with water, it takes on a corrosive power that erodes some animals' shells or skeletons. It also robs the water of ingredients animals use to grow shells in the first place.

New science shows ocean acidification also can bedevil fish and the animals that eat them, from sharks to whales and seabirds. Shifting sea chemistry can cripple the reefs where fish live, rewire fish brains and attack what fish eat.

Those changes pose risks

How carbon dioxide increases ocean acidification

Human sources of carbon dioxide in the U.S.

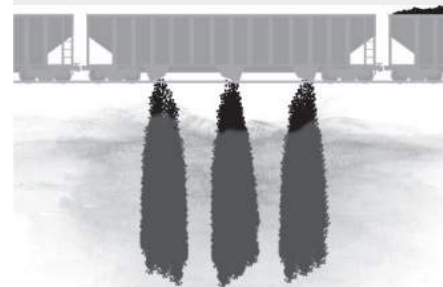


Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NOAA's Pacific Marine Engineering Laboratory, Jeremy Mathis, Richard Feely
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times

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Carbon equivalent

How much carbon are we putting into the ocean? Worldwide, we're dumping the equivalent of a rail car of coal — about 100 U.S. tons — into the ocean every second.



© 2013 MCT

Source: NOAA's Pacific Marine Engineering Laboratory, Chris Sabine
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times

once not expected until the end of the century—will be well underway, particularly along the West Coast, before today's preschoolers reach middle age.

"I used to think it was kind of hard to make things in the ocean go extinct," said James Barry, of the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in California. "But this change we're seeing is happening so fast it's almost instantaneous. I think it might be so important that we see large levels, high rates of extinction."

Globally, the world can arrest much of the damage by bringing down CO₂ emissions soon. But the longer it takes, the more permanent these changes become.

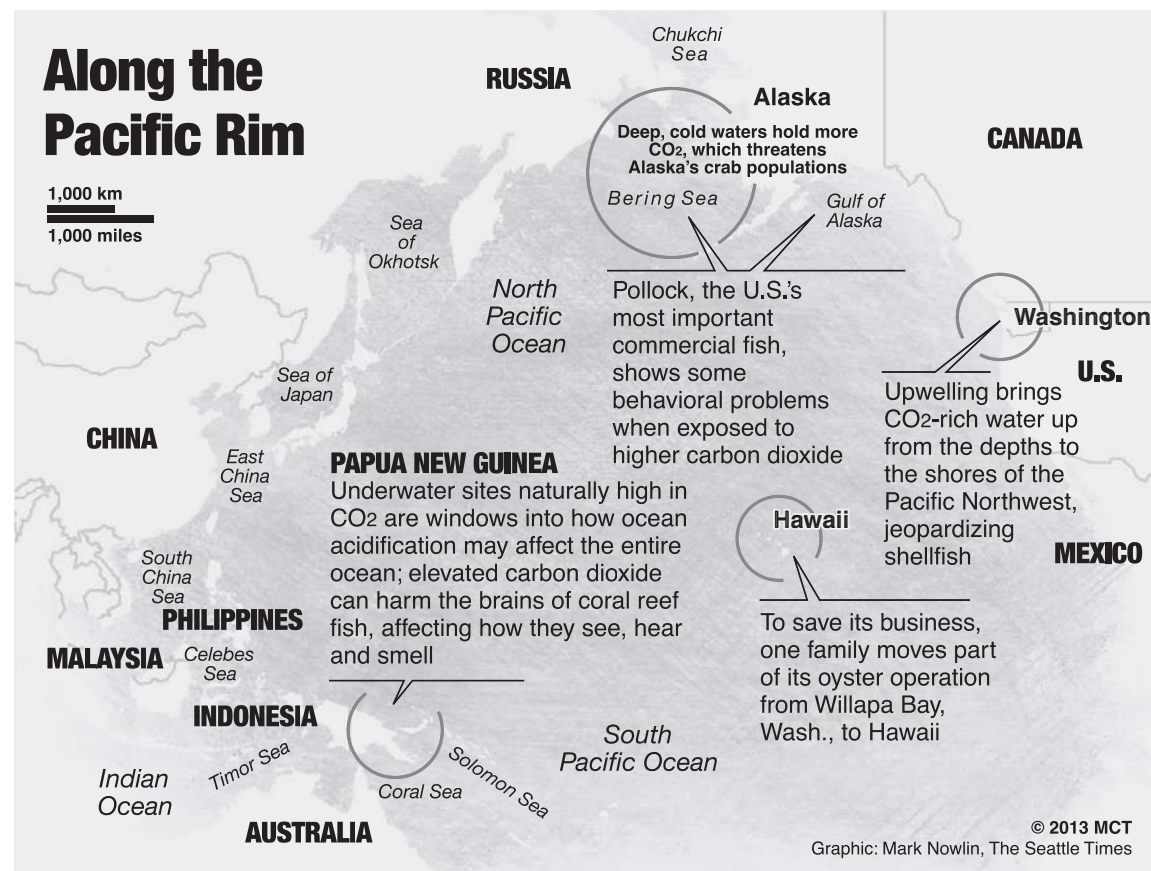
"There's a train wreck coming and we are in a position

more some years just studying sea lions in Alaska.

Species' reaction to high CO₂ can vary dramatically. Acidification can kill baby abalone and some crabs, deform squid and weaken brittle stars while making it tough for corals to grow. It tends to increase sea grasses, which can be good, and boost the toxicity of red tides, which is not. It makes many creatures less resilient to heavy metal pollution.

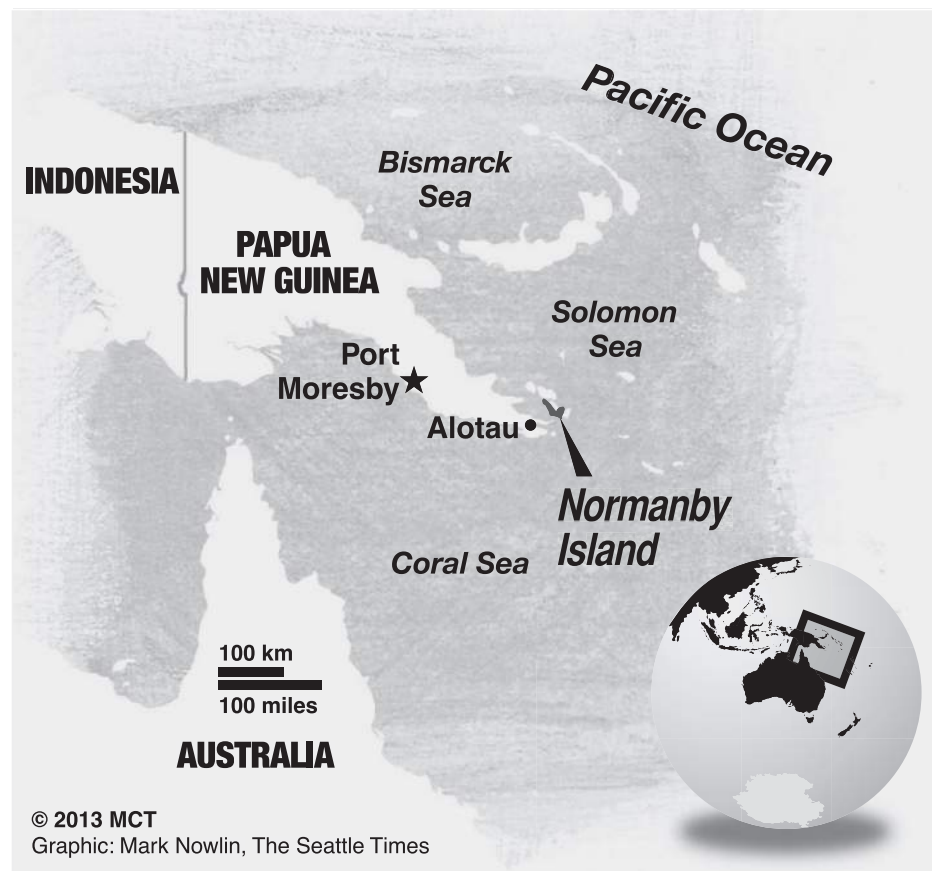
Roughly a quarter of organisms studied by researchers in laboratories actually do better in high CO₂. Another quarter seem unaffected. But entire marine systems are built around the

See **SEA CHANGE** on Next Page



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Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times



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Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times

SEA CHANGE

From Page 17

remaining half of susceptible plants and animals.

“Yes, there will be winners and losers, but the winners will mostly be the weeds,” said Ken Caldeira, a climate expert at Stanford’s Carnegie Institution for Science, who helped popularize the term ocean acidification.

Many species, from sea urchins to abalone, do show some capacity to adapt to high CO₂. But they may not have time.

“It’s almost like an arms race,” said Gretchen Hofmann, a marine biologist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. “We can see that the potential for rapid evolution is there. The question is, will the changes be so rapid and extreme

that it will outstrip what they’re capable of?”

Already, the oceans have grown 30 percent more acidic since the dawn of the industrial revolution—15 percent since the 1990s. By the end of this century, scientists predict, seas may be 150 percent more acidic than they were in the 18th century.

In fact, the current shift has come so quickly that scientists five years ago saw chemical changes off the U.S. West Coast that hadn’t been expected for half a century.

Meanwhile, the Arctic and Antarctic are shifting even more rapidly because deep, cold seas absorb more CO₂. The West Coast has seen consequences sooner because strong winds draw its CO₂-rich water to the surface where vulnerable shellfish live.

CO₂-rich seas can scramble behavior of fish

High levels of CO₂ can alter a fish’s sense of smell, hearing and sight — even its decision making. That leads tropical reef fish to die young more often. Here’s what happens:

- **GABA** is a neurotransmitter, one of the most common chemical messengers in the brain; it helps regulate the central nervous system

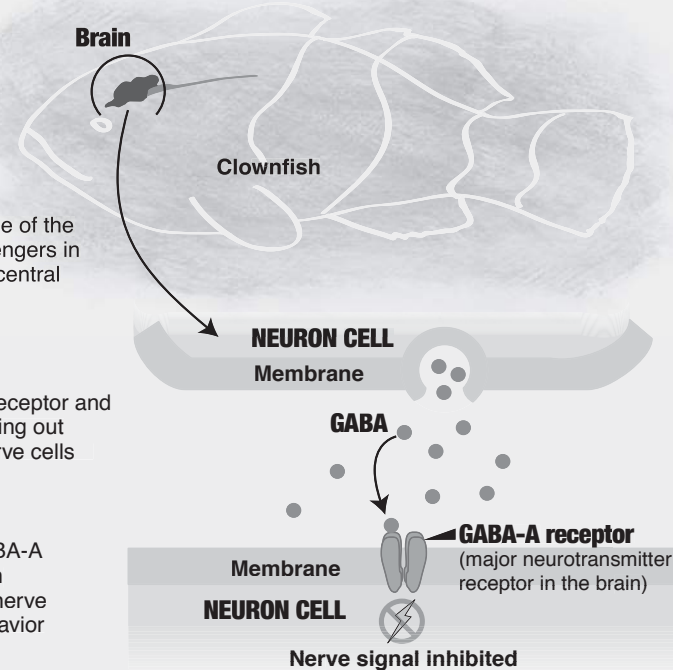
Normal function

GABA attaches to a GABA-A receptor and prevents the neuron from sending out unintended signals to other nerve cells

Abnormal function

Water high in CO₂ causes GABA-A receptors to malfunction, which stimulates rather than inhibits nerve signals, causing abnormal behavior

Source: Goran Erik Nilsson, University of Oslo, Norway
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times



© 2013 MCT

among odors. Since clownfish use smell to stay safe, the scientists then exposed baby fish in high-CO₂ water to bigger fish that eat young clownfish.

Normal clownfish always avoided the danger. The exposed fish lost all fear. They swam straight at predators.

Over the next few years, scientists learned CO₂ changed many reef fishes’ senses and behaviors: their sight, hearing, the propensity to turn left or right. Most important, that caused them to die two to five times more often.

Last year, researchers figured out why. Elevated CO₂ disrupts brain signaling in a manner common among many fish. The clownfish story, in other words, was no longer just about clownfish.

And brain damage is not even the biggest threat to commercial fish.

All over the ocean, usually too small to see, flutter beautiful, nearly see-through creatures called pteropods, also known as sea butterflies. Scientists have known for years that plummeting ocean pH later this century would begin to burn through their shells.

But they were alarmed late in 2012 when researchers announced that pteropods in Antarctica were dissolving already in waters less corrosive than those often found off Washington and Oregon.

That matters because birds, fish and mammals, from pollock to whales, feast on this abundant ocean snack. Pteropods make up half the diet of baby pink salmon and get eaten by other fish, such as herring, that then get swallowed by larger animals. And so little ocean monitoring is done of creatures at the bottom of the marine food chain, there’s no telling yet if other plankton species are experiencing changes, too.

So, to understand the future of the marine food web, government computer modelers have been studying how sea-chemistry changes could reverberate through the ocean. Their initial results, looking at just the U.S. West Coast, are disturbing.

“Right now, for acidification in particular,” said Isaac Kaplan, a NOAA researcher in Seattle, “the risks look pretty substantial.”

Kaplan’s early work projects potentially significant declines in sharks, skates and rays, some types of flounder, rockfish and sole, and Pacific whiting, also known as hake, the most frequently caught commercial fish off the coast of Washington, Oregon and California.

“Some species will go up, some species will go down,” said Phil Levin, ecosystems leader for NOAA’s Northwest Fisheries Science Center in Seattle. “On balance, it looks to us like most of the commercially caught fish species will go down.”

To be continued tomorrow.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Antonio Reyes Untalan

Lovingly known as “Anton”

March 4, 1936 – September 19, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Wife: †Beatrice Garrido Untalan
Parents: †Manuel A. & †Maria G. Untalan
Brothers and Sisters: †Vicente R. Untalan, †Chilang Untalan Akona, †Gregorio L. Untalan
In-Laws: †Henry Akana
†Magdalena C. Untalan
†Francisco C. Garrido
†Vicente C. Garrido

His Memories Will Forever Live In The Hearts Of His:

Wife: Haydee D. Untalan
Children: Mary Untalan & Jesse Leon Guerrero and children, Lucy Untalan & Kin Benavente and children, Joey & Jennifer A. Untalan and children, George & Maria G. Untalan and children, Franklin & Tess D. Untalan and children, Anna D. Untalan, Aaron D. Untalan
Reared Son: Rocco M. Reyes
Sisters, Brothers & Spouses: Virginia U. & Ike San Nicolas, Louie & Lourdes T. Untalan, Baltazar & Terry I. Untalan, Lourdes U. & Michael Casaway, Francisco & Marcia Untalan
Sisters In-Law: Anne Garrido
Felisa C. Untalan

Mass of Intention is offered nightly at 6:00PM at Santa Soledad Church.

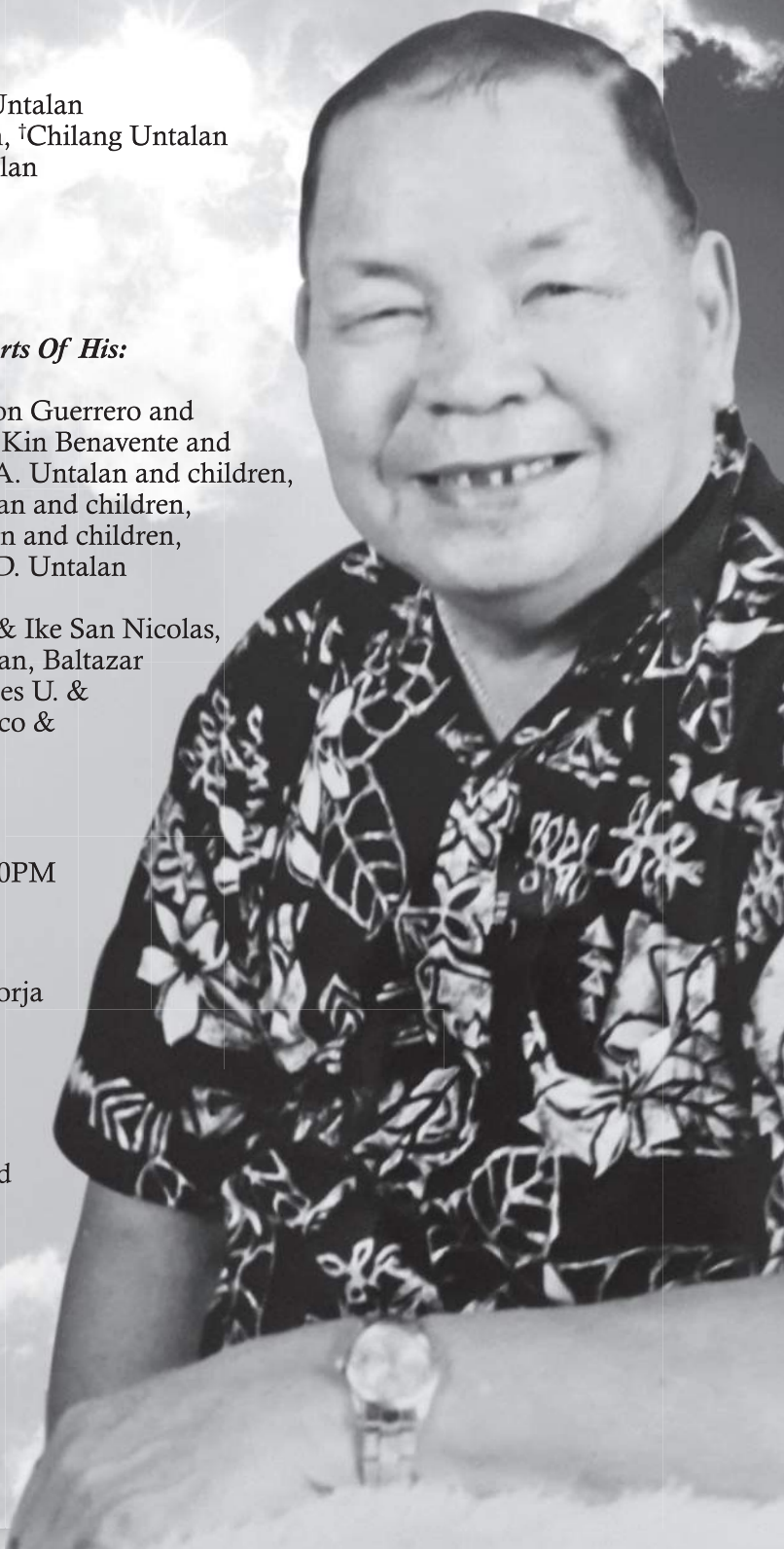
On Saturday, September 28, 2013, our beloved’s remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:30AM to Kristo Rai Church for viewing and last respects. Responso and viewing will be from 8:00AM to 10:00AM.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:30AM followed immediately by Interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated.

Thank You – Si Yu’us Ma’ase

The Family



Campus Life

Education chief: Maybe start school later in day

WASHINGTON (AP)—A later start to the school day could help teenagers get the most from their classroom time and local districts should consider delaying the first bell, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said Wednesday.

School districts would still be free to set their own start times, Duncan insisted in a broadcast interview, but he pointed to research that backs up his comments that rested students are ready students. Duncan said he would not be telling local school leaders when their first bells should ring and said it was up to local leaders to make the decisions on their own.

"There's lots of research and common sense that lots of teens struggle to get up ... to get on the bus," said Duncan, the former chief of Chicago Public Schools.

The main reason?

"Teen brains have a different biology," said Kyla Wahlstrom, director at the University of Minnesota's Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement.

For the last 17 years, Wahlstrom has studied teenagers' sleep cycles, brains and learning. She has concluded that schools that want ready students must have students arrive rested. Absenteeism, tardiness, depression, obesity, drop-out rates and even auto accidents all decline when students head to school after a good night of sleep.

Schools are starting to take notice.

Take, for instance, Virginia's Fairfax County Public Schools.

Most medical professionals recommend between 8.5 and 9.5 hours of sleep for students. The Fairfax district surveyed students in grades 8, 10 and 12 and found two-thirds of them were sleeping seven hours or less each school night. Among high school seniors, 84 percent routinely slept less than seven hours each night during the 2011 survey.

That prompted the school district, the 11th largest in the country, to partner with the Children's National Medical Center's Division of Sleep Medicine to study student's nighttime habits this year and to consider pushing its start time to 8 a.m. or later in coming years.

"Teens have a different body clock," said Terra Ziporyn Snider, the co-founder of Start School Later, a grassroots advocacy group that has pushed schools for delayed bells. "You don't run schools at a time when kids aren't ready to learn."

There isn't an easy fix.

Bus schedules have been a driving factor in recent decades for when schools start their days, as are after-school jobs for

teenagers, extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports. The challenge of transporting students to these activities—as well as classes—often is cited as a reason high school days begin at dawn and end mid-afternoon.

"So often, we design school systems that work for adults and not for kids," Duncan told NPR's "The Diane Rehm Show."

Research backs up Duncan's worries about student sleep patterns and academic achievement.

"Children who sleep poorly are doing more poorly on academic performance," said Joseph Buckhalt, a distinguished professor at Auburn University's College of Education.

He has been tracking sleeping patterns of 250 children as well as their IQ tests, performance on standardized tests, their grades and behavior. His findings suggest sleep is just as important to student achievement as diet and exercise.

"All the data that we've seen on sleep shows that children, especially teenagers, are sleeping less," he said. "If you don't sleep well, you don't think very well."

Part of the lack of sleep is biological as teenagers go through puberty, Buckhalt said. But afterschool programs such as sports or clubs, as well as increased pressure for students to perform well academically, keep them up later than is prudent. Add in caffeine, non-step social interactions through text messages and Facebook and sometimes less-than-ideal home environments, and students have steep challenges.

For students from less affluent families, the effects can be compounded, Buckhalt found.

"Fifty years ago we learned that hungry kids don't do well in school. Now we know that sleepy children don't do well in school," Buckhalt said. "Now we have to do something about it."

That doesn't mean all schools are rushing to delay the first period for high school students.

"If any issue cries for local decision making, this is one," said Patte Barth, director for the Center for Public Education at the National School Boards Association.

The professional organization has not taken a position on the ideal time to start schools, but Barth said Duncan is correct. "Teenagers are much more alert later in the day rather than earlier," she said.

In schools where the day starts later, there have been immediate gains, she said.

"Some districts have made these adjustments to the school day and they have found among their teenagers that attendance is better, kids aren't falling

asleep," she said.

But it comes at a cost for other students, both in terms of dollars and opportunities because schools are operating with limited resources.

"If you're starting the high school kids later, you're starting elementary kids earlier. No one wants those kids out on the streets when it's dark," she said. "If they're contemplating this switch, they need to look at the costs."

But some districts have made it work with few disruptions.



ABACA PRESS/MCT

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan speaks at the press briefing at the White House in Washington, D.C.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Clemente Francisco Santos Sablan

October 21, 1958 – September 24, 2013

In His New Life, He Now Joins His:

Parents:

Juan Ogo Sablan and
Rita Songao Sablan

Parents In Law:

Howard Iglesias Macaranas and
Margarita Cepeda Macaranas

Brother/Sisters and In Law:

Maria S. Cabrera
Bartola S. Basa
Manuel S. Sablan
Frank H. Rran

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife: Charlene Macaranas Sablan

Children and Grandchildren:

Luis Andrew M./ Yolanda Cruz (Alana Lei)
Chantyll S. / Treat Kaipat (Treat Jr., Aurie Jean)
Germaine M./ Brian Rios
Francisco C. Macaranas

Sisters and Brothers In-Law/Sisters In-Law:

Margarita S. Sablan/Alberto Mosquete,
Patricia S. Rran,
Manuel T. Cabrera/Emma,
Jose Basa
Jeffrey R./ Kelani Reyes
Naadeen M./ Pete Skilang
Sohn M. / Olivia P. Macaranas
Keone M./ Leeandra S. Macaranas
Ariana P. Macaranas
Aubrey P. Macaranas

He will also be missed by numerous uncles, aunties, nieces and nephews relatives and friends.

Daily Mass of Intentions are celebrated each morning at 6:00am and Holy Rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm. at Kristo Rai Church.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, October 02, 2013. His remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to Kristo Rai Church. Responso Service will be at 8:00am followed by Holy Rosary at 8:15am.

Mass of Christian of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00am followed by Interment Services at Santuario PAX Memorial Gardens in Kagman, Saipan where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Please join us in prayers,

**Charlene Macaranas Sablan, Children and Family
Santos and Sablan Families**

Life & Style

Mary Pickford film found in NH barn is restored

KEENE, N.H. (AP)—Carpenter Peter Massie has come across some interesting finds over the years—antique bottles, old newspapers stuffed in walls. But his biggest discovery of all is the only known copy of a 1911 Mary Pickford movie that marked a turning point in the silent film star's career.

The Library of Congress is funding a project to restore the film, titled "Their First Misunderstanding," and it will be shown next month at Keene State College, where a retired professor has overseen the restoration.

The film is the first one Pickford wrote and the first for which she was given credit in the advertising materials. Before that, movie studios didn't want actors to become household names because they'd demand more money, said Pickford scholar Christel Schmidt, editor of "Mary Pickford: Queen of the Movies."

Massie, who discovered the film along with six other vintage reels in a New Hampshire barn he was tearing down in 2006, is looking forward to seeing it.

"This is the coolest thing I've ever found on any job," he said. "It's pretty fantastic, that's what

I think. They were seconds away from going into a Dumpster."

The property where Massie found the films apparently used to be a summer camp for boys, and the movies were probably shown to entertain the campers, said Larry Benaquist, who founded the film program at Keene State. Massie donated the films to the college, and Benaquist led the effort to identify and restore them.

Pickford, known as "America's Sweetheart," was one of Hollywood's earliest stars. She was a co-founder of the United Artists film studio and helped establish the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. She retired from acting in 1933 and died in 1979.

The 10-minute comedy-drama stars Pickford and her first husband, Owen Moore, as newlyweds having their first argument. The first minute or so



This image provided by Keene State College shows frames of a 1911 movie with actress Mary Pickford. AP

was destroyed, but the rest was in remarkably good condition, Benaquist said.

He quickly determined that one of the reels was a lost 1913 silent film about Abraham Lincoln. But it took longer to identify the Pickford film because the 35 mm celuloid had stuck to itself.

Once a lab was able to separate the layers, Benaquist reached out to Schmidt.

"I was really stunned, because a lot of those early films, you just figure they're gone," Schmidt said Monday. "For that one to turn up was really exciting."

Pickford had been known only as "Little Mary," "The Girl with the Curls" and "The Biograph" girl, after her former studio, but that changed after "Their First Misunderstanding," Benaquist said.

"Now she was an actor with clout, and I think she used that to great advantage," he said.

One clip of the restored film shows Pickford bounding into the room and confronting her husband about an invitation from someone she doesn't particularly like.

Aguilera perfects motherhood-career balancing act

WEST HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Christina Aguilera said a season away from "The Voice" was the break that she needed to get reinvigorated—for herself, the show and the contestants.

Aguilera and CeeLo took time off from the show last season, and were replaced by Usher and Shakira. But they're back in their signature red chairs on Monday night when the hit talent competition premieres on NBC.

Speaking to a small group of reporters last week at the tony Soho House, Aguilera said the show, now in its fifth season, was taking a bit of a toll on her—coupled with her demanding life outside of it—including being a mother to 5-year-old son Max.

"As artists we need to feel like we're appreciated and we're understood and we're given the



This undated publicity photo provided by NBC shows Christina Aguilera during the "Blind Auditions" for "The Voice," airing Mondays (8-10 p.m. ET) and Tuesdays (9-10 p.m. ET). AP

breathing room, because we're constantly in front of the camera giving, giving, giving, giving. And then I'm a mother on top of that, and it's giving, giving, giving at home. And it's like,

when do I get something back?" she said, eliciting laughter. "You know, and I'm giving, giving to my team. And it's just like, you know, I just—you just, you know, need to take a moment."

Aguilera's commitment to finding that elusive balance of life and career is something she's teaching this year's crop of singing hopefuls.

"It's learning how to better care and protect and nurture yourself," she said. "I'm giving these kids that coaching advice on my team this year and I'm trying to get them to step, sometimes away from, sorry, the competition of it and just live and breathe into music and remember why you're up there on that stage."

Still, she's interested in the winning part of it. She hasn't had a trophy to show in her three years of coaching and is trying to change that this year. Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine has won once, while country singer Blake Shelton has held the title three years running.

Aguilera is taking a page from Levine and Shelton's book and perfecting her hard sell in the hope of nabbing this year's top contestants for her team.

"Adam's like deliciously competitive," she said. "You just see his, you know, the blood boiling because he's the best sales pitch. I mean, he's a genius sales pitch guy. ... He'll sell a used car to your grandma."

Audiences may revel in seeing her and Levine go head to head, but Aguilera insists it's all friendly competition.

"That's what was so cool about coming back this season is because there's a comfort level that we've never had before," the 32-year-old said. "That it's just like we know each other so well. We know what's going to get each other ticking or riled up, emotional. And it's cool."

Jurors hear legal instructions in Jackson lawsuit

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jurors in a negligence lawsuit filed by Michael Jackson's mother against concert giant AEG Live LLC heard legal instructions Monday on the eve of final arguments in the 21-week civil trial.

Members of the jury listened attentively as Superior Court Judge Yvette Palazuelos said everyone has biases, but they must not be swayed by prejudice, sympathy or public opinion while deliberating. They also were told how to evaluate evidence and witnesses.

If the jury finds that damages should be assessed, the judge said they must not consider such issues as the grief endured by the Jackson family or the wealth of both sides in the bitterly fought case.

AEG Live is accused of negligently hiring the doctor who was convicted of giving the pop star an overdose of the anesthetic propofol as he tried to rest during preparations for comeback shows in London.

The instructions lasted about 30 minutes—a relatively short time because there is only one central issue in the case: Who hired Dr. Conrad Murray? Was it AEG Live or the superstar singer?

If jurors find that AEG hired the doctor, they must then decide whether the promoter was negligent in hiring and supervising Murray. The also would have to address whether AEG Live knew or should have known Murray was unfit or incompetent, and if that created risk to others.

Dule Hill gets a 'West Wing' moment with Obama

NEW YORK (AP)—Few people get to meet a U.S. president. Dule Hill has met three—one fake and now his second real one.

The actor and dancer, who played a personal presidential aide on "The West Wing," got a chance to perform a song for hundreds of world leaders, including President Barack Obama, on Monday night during a reception for U.N. leaders.

Hill and cast members of the upcoming Broadway show "After Midnight," a musical celebrating Duke Ellington's years at the famous Cotton Club

nightclub in Harlem, sang a few numbers at the Waldorf Astoria, a swanky Park Avenue hotel. Hill sang "I've Got the World on a String," and cast members sang the songs "Devil and the Deep Blue Sea" and "Creole Love Call."

"I really enjoyed it," Hill said afterward. "I never thought this would ever happen. If you'd have told me I was going to sing in front of all these dignitaries a month ago I would have



Hill

laughed." It's Hill's third close encounter with a commander in chief: He met Jimmy Carter at a Democratic National Convention a few years ago and was, of course, a close associate of Josiah Bartlet, the president played by Martin Sheen on "The West Wing." Hill learned only last Wednesday that he'd scored his latest gig.

"It's not something that happens every day," said Hill, who

plays the master of ceremonies in the upcoming show. "When they asked me, it wasn't like I said, 'Well, let me check my schedule. I might want to watch the game.'"

"After Midnight," directed and choreographed by Warren Carlyle with musical direction by Wynton Marsalis, appeared off-Broadway last year at New York City Center under the name "Cotton Club Parade." Songs include "Stormy Weather" and "I Can't Give You Anything But Love."

Performances start Oct. 18 at the Brooks Atkinson Theatre,

with an official opening night set for Nov. 3. Hill joins Grammy Award- and "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino in the lively show, which will feature 17 musicians and 25 vocalists and dancers.

Hill, who starring in USA's hit detective series "Psych," was last on Broadway as Spoon, a lawyer-turned-budding novelist, in Lydia R. Diamond's thoughtful family drama "Stick Fly" in 2011.

Emmy Award-nominated for his work as Charlie Young on "The West Wing," Hill first came to prominence as The Kid opposite Savion Glover and Jeffrey Wright in "Bring in 'da Noise, Bring in 'da Funk."

Emmy telecast wins biggest audience in 8 years

NEW YORK (AP)—The Nielsen Co. says Sunday's Emmy broadcast scored a one-third audience spike over last year.

Preliminary ratings figures indi-

cate the 3-hour telecast on CBS averaged 17.6 million viewers, compared to 13.3 million viewers for last year's Emmy show on ABC.

It was the largest audience for the awards show since 2005.

But Sunday's broadcast, which aired live across the country, was undoubtedly helped by

the network's very strong lead-in: NFL football.

Neil Patrick Harris was host of the 65th Annual Primetime Emmy Awards.

Bryan Cranston, Cher offer custom phone recordings

NEW YORK (AP)—It may be one of the most boring lines ever—"Leave a message after the beep." But what if you managed to jazz up your phone's outgoing message with a celebrity?

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering just that: custom-recorded messages from "Batman" star Adam West, "Breaking Bad" star Bryan Cranston, singer Cher, actors Jack Black, Peter Dinklage, Jim Parsons, "Star Wars" star Mark Hamill, "Star Trek" actors Michael Dorn and Zachary Quinto, and broadcaster Vin Scully.

"We got a good mix and match," Ed Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award winner of "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and "Lou Grant," who dreamed up the unusual fundraiser with one of his sons, Matt, who works for Autism Speaks. "They've all been really happy to do it. And if they're not happy, I'll put a hit out on them."

From Oct. 7 to Oct. 13, a limited number of 20-second long MP3 messages you write will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for



Bryan Cranston holds his award for best drama series for "Breaking Bad" backstage at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards at Nokia Theatre on Sunday Sept. 22, 2013, in Los Angeles.

fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety and each costs \$299.

Last year, the fundraiser created some memorable messages: Betty White warned listeners to one phone number, "If I have to tell you what to do at the beep, then you're an idiot and shouldn't be using a phone in the first place." Callers to another number got Will Ferrell saying, "Leave Jimmy a message while we eat some meatloaf." And Patrick Stewart lent his smooth British accent to one: "You could leave a message," he purred, "but we both know it would be nowhere as awesome as this greeting."

Some 342 messages were made last year during the inaugural campaign, helping raise \$100,000.

All proceeds will support autism research and advocacy efforts. An estimated 1 in 88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum, a developmental disorder characterized by communication difficulties, social and behavioral challenges, as well as repetitive behaviors.

Ellen Pompeo: 'The Emmys felt so dated to me'

NEW YORK (AP)—Ellen Pompeo wasn't a fan of this year's Emmy Awards show.

The 43-year-old actress says she "was really disappointed" by Sunday's telecast.

"I didn't see any diversity in the Emmys at all. The Emmys felt so dated to me," she said in an interview Monday. "That dance number was embarrass-



Pompeo

the Emmys on the same point, though there were minorities

ing. Did you see one person of color in that dance number?"

A few others criticized

represented, including Diahann Carroll, the first black person ever nominated for an Emmy; she paid tribute to "Scandal's" Kerry Washington, who was by her side. Washington was nominated for best actress in a drama, and had she won, she would have been the first African-American to win the trophy; instead, it went to Claire Danes,

star of "Homeland."

"Grey's Anatomy" is one of the more diverse shows on television, which Pompeo says is one of her favorite things about the series, which debuts its 10th season on ABC on Thursday.

"I'm extremely proud of our very, very diverse cast which represents the world that I walk around in every day," she said.

Lindsay Lohan's mom due in NY court on DWI charge

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP)—Lindsay Lohan's mother is due in suburban New York court to answer drunken driving charges.

State police say 50-year-old Dina Lohan was stopped earlier this month allegedly speeding on a Long Island parkway.

A breath test showed the mother of the troubled film actress had a blood-alcohol level that was more than double New York's legal limit of 0.08 percent.



Lohan

She was issued tickets for DWI and speeding and ordered to appear in court on Tuesday.

Dina Lohan's lawyer says his client is a first-time offender and he expected she would be treated fairly by the court.

The arrest comes just months after her daughter completed her latest stint in rehab.

Lindsay Lohan was spotted by photographers at her mother's Merrick, Long Island, home following Dina Lohan's arrest.

US honors Ray Charles with limited-edition stamp

ATLANTA (AP)—The U.S. Postal Service is planning to add soul singer Ray Charles to its "Music Icons Forever" stamp series.

Postal officials say the agency is releasing a stamp featuring the Albany, Ga., native on Monday along with one of the artist's previously unreleased songs.

Charles was a singer and songwriter who pioneered the soul and rhythm-and-blues genres. He died in 2004.

Events are being planned in Atlanta and Los Angeles to celebrate Charles' inclusion in the series.

R&B singer Ashanti and the Morehouse College Glee Club are scheduled to perform at the Atlanta school's Ray Charles Performing Arts Center. And Chaka Khan is headlining an event at the Grammy Museum.

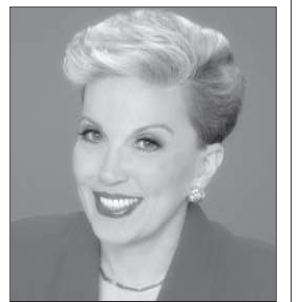
The U.S. Postal Service honors music legends each year by featuring them on limited-edition stamps.

In this undated photo provided by the U.S. Postal Service, a new Postal Service stamp honoring musician Ray Charles is shown.



Sister who's out of control needs her reins pulled tight

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm 21, and my 16-year-old sister is out of control. She told me she smokes marijuana, drinks alcohol, abuses painkillers and recently mentioned she does coke.

Abby, she is beautiful, and I don't want to see her do this to herself. She's living with me about an hour away from my parents because Dad is an alcoholic and he abuses our mother. I brought my sister here to get her away from all that because I know what it was like growing up there.

I'm having trouble giving her advice to stay away from those things because I did them, and I feel like a hypocrite. My parents can't get through to her, either. Please help.

TRYING TO BE A BIG SIS

DEAR TRYING: You're lucky you were able to straighten out without becoming addicted to any of the substances you experimented with, but your sister may not be so lucky. Because she's out of control, you **MUST** step in and put a stop to it for her sake.

Your sister needs counseling, and if she is going to remain your responsibility, it is imperative that you assert control. Talk to her school counselor about getting her the help she needs. You may have to drug-test your sister on a random basis as a condition of her continuing to live with you. Kits are available at your pharmacy.

Stop feeling guilty, stay strong, and you may be able to steer your sister back on the right path.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 23-year-old soldier in the Army, currently deployed overseas. I'm less than a month away from returning home to my husband. However, I have not been faithful to him during my tour. I have had sex with several people over here, and if that's not complicated enough, I appear to be pregnant. I don't know what to tell my husband. I actually still kind of love him. Advice?

DEPLOYED AND PREGNANT

DEAR DEPLOYED: You need to make certain you are pregnant and that this is not a false alarm. Whether you are or not, you have some difficult decisions to make.

While it won't be pleasant, you and your husband are due for an honest conversation upon your return. If you both "still kind of" love each other, forgiveness is possible, and couples have been known to get beyond this and have successful marriages.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: The "rule" that white pants can be worn only from Memorial Day to Labor Day needs to be amended. I love my white pants. They go with nearly everything, and I almost cry when they must be stored away for another nine months. Ridiculous! My proposal would be to extend the grace period so it begins on Easter Sunday and lasts until Halloween. How does that sound?

MARILYN IN SAN MARCOS, CALIF.

DEAR MARILYN: You will be delighted to know that according to "Emily Post's Etiquette, 18th Edition," that old rule about wearing white no longer applies. What's important isn't the color, but the weight of the fabric.

Here in Southern California, summer can start late and continue through October. Lightweight fabrics such as cotton and linen are acceptable during hot weather, and when the temperature drops, "winter whites" in wool, corduroy, silk and satin are common, although usually in off-white shades rather than a stark one.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

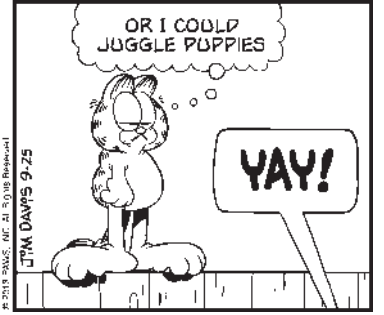
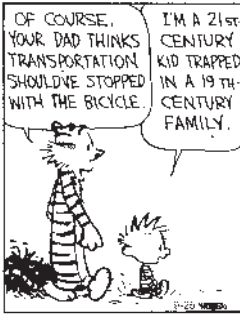
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

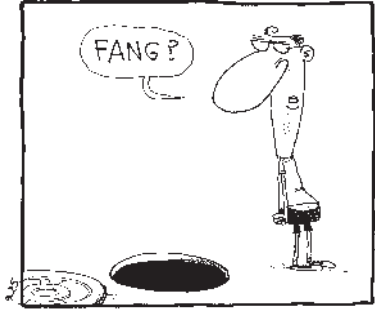
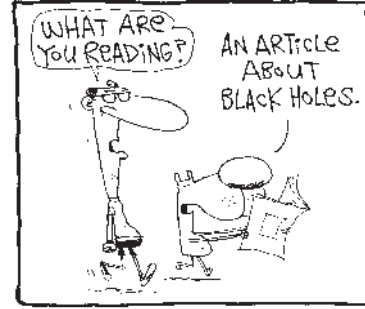
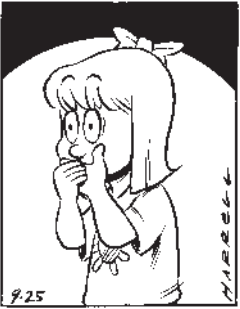


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

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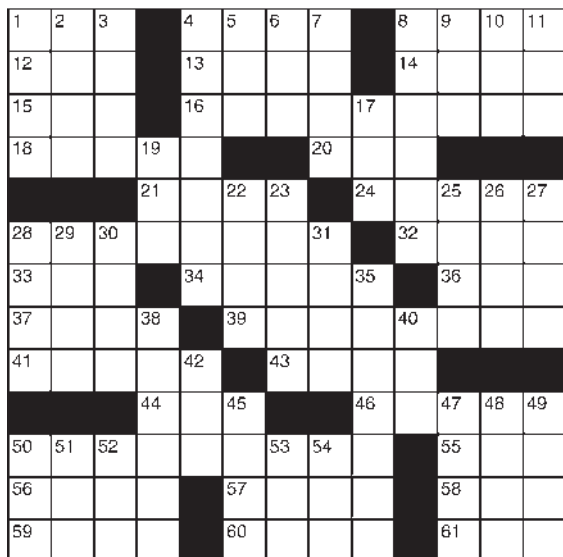
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Yesterday's answer 9-25



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Catherine Zeta-Jones, 44; Will Smith, 45; Heather Locklear, 52; Michael Douglas, 69.

Happy Birthday: Open up about the way you feel and initiate the changes that will help you move in a direction you have longed to pursue. Let your experience be your guide and your intuition your safety net. Stand up, be counted and you will make a difference. Strive to make more and to spend less. Put stress behind you. Your numbers are 2, 9, 16, 24, 27, 33, 38.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Address partnership issues. Business associates should be approached and conversations that lead to a better understanding of a job or venture can help you put your plans into motion. Do your research and proceed with an aesthetic improvement. ★★☆☆

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Don't judge others unless you are taking a critical look at your own shortcomings. Accept others for who they are and allow yourself the same freedom in return. Greater opportunities and better relationships will develop. ★★☆☆

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A serious look at your current situation will help you make a wise choice. Take the information you receive that promotes advancement and interests you, and explore the possibilities. A business trip will help you seal a deal. ★★☆☆

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Express your thoughts and you will attract attention. A learning curve will not be as difficult as you think. Embrace whatever is offered

from someone with experience, and you will advance. Love is in the stars, and romance should be scheduled. ★★☆☆

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Protect your home and your relationships. Don't withhold information if that may be considered a lack of trust or loyalty. Lay your cards on the table so you are able to move forward. Use your intelligence and charm to get your way. ★★☆☆

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will have mixed emotions regarding a job or finding out what your role is supposed to be. Rely on the people you can trust and go beyond the call of duty by adding more detail and finesse to whatever you do. ★★☆☆

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Educational pursuits, new philosophies or following a new creative path will lead to changes within your relationships. Share your feelings and you will capture the attention of someone who has insight into your current situation. Short trips will bring you more opportunities. ★★☆☆

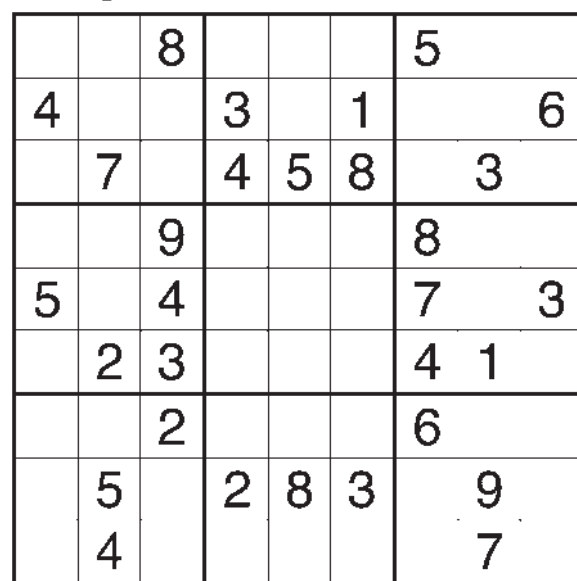
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Explore new venues that offer skills, knowledge or insight into fascinating cultures. The changes you make to the way you live will make a marked difference to how you create, work and enjoy life in the future. ★★☆☆

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Presenting your ideas will help convince others to support you. Keep your overhead small to avoid criticism and failure. Getting others involved must be executed carefully or it may cost you a friendship. A domestic change will be met with mixed emotions. ★★☆☆

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

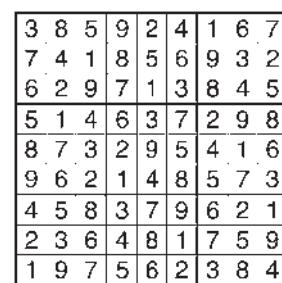


Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

9/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★☆☆

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Make suggestions and you will gain respect. Look at your relationships and the work you do from a creative point of view instead of from an economic position, and you will see a much bigger picture with auspicious opportunities. ★★☆☆



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take care of legal, financial or medical issues and you will feel relieved. Less stress will help you deal better with individuals who have been scrutinizing and pointing fingers. Take action instead of waiting for things to come to you. ★★☆☆



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can finalize a deal or settle a disagreement or even invest in something that will bring you high returns, but most of all, you can make a commitment or promise to someone special and work as a team to reach your goals. ★★☆☆



Birthday Baby: You are communicative, honorable and just. You are insightful and engaging.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

LET'S SWAP IDEAS

Solution: 10 letters



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Address, Advice, Answers, Artist, Book, Careers, Cars, Contest, Costs, Crafts, Culture, Diets, Doctors, Fact, Games, Gifts, Guess, Hair, Health, Holiday, Hospitality, Inspire, Item, Jokes, Letters, Meals, Medicine, Music, Notes, Opinions, Pets, Photos, Quotations, Recipes, Script, Services, Shoes, Story, Support, Swap, Technology, Tricks, Trips
Yesterday's Answer: Crowning
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, volumes 26 and 27 call 1-800-642-6490. Order online at wonderword.universaljclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

9/25

Manning's 3 TDs helps Broncos beat Raiders, 37-21



Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) throws his seventh touchdown of the game against the Baltimore Ravens during the second half of an NFL football game, Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013, in Denver.

DENVER (AP)—Peyton Manning slapped his hands together five, six, seven times and barked out the signals. A few seconds later, Wes Welker was all alone, cradling the quarterback's latest touchdown pass.

All part of another impeccably crafted victory for Manning and the Denver Broncos, who rolled over the Oakland Raiders 37-21 Monday night. Denver's 127 points lead the league and are 31 more than second-place Green Bay.

It was Denver's 14th straight regular-season win, tying the franchise record set in 1998 when the Broncos won their second Super Bowl.

Manning went 32 for 37 for 374 yards and put his name in the record books a few more times while outwitting the overmatched Raiders (1-2).

"You see flashes of good things," Manning said. "When we're executing and not making mistakes, we can go the distance. We can go 80 yards, take advantage of a short field."

Manning's 12 touchdown

passes are one more than Tom Brady's old record for the first three games, set in 2011. Manning still has yet to throw an interception, which matches a record held by Michael Vick, who also threw 12 touchdowns before his first pick in 2010.

"We get to play with one of the greatest quarterbacks and football players to ever play the game," said tight end Julius Thomas, who caught one of the touchdowns. "He's great. There's no other way to cut it up or slice it."

As much as the numbers, it

was Manning's deciphering of the Oakland defense that made jaws drop in this one.

His first touchdown, a 2-yard pass to Eric Decker (eight catches, 133 yards), came after a subtle play-action fake that froze the defense and left Decker uncovered in the back of the end zone.

Manning's targets for the next two touchdowns—Welker and Thomas—didn't have defenders within three steps of them when they caught the passes. Wide open. A sure sign that Manning had diagnosed the de-

fense he was looking at well before the snap and knew exactly where he wanted to go with the ball.

"You see what he can do. I don't even know too many people who can do that in Madden," running back Ronnie Hillman said, referring to the popular video game. "It's pretty cool to have a quarterback like that."

OK, so the evening wasn't perfect. There were the five incompletions, though two of them were flat-out drops and another two hit receivers in the hands, but would have been dif-

ficult catches. The Broncos (3-0) settled for three field goals and had to punt once. Rookie Montee Ball lost another fumble. Denver came a field goal short of reaching 40 points for the third straight game.

And Manning's prediction that Chris Clark would be a seamless replacement for injured Ryan Clady as his blind-side protector didn't exactly pan out. Lamarr Houston beat Denver's new starting left tackle badly in the third quarter for a sack and strip that halted a drive that had reached the Raiders 13.

But Denver was ahead 30-7 at that point.

And, really, any complaints about Denver's offense seem like quibbling given what's gone on so far this season. The record for touchdown passes in a season is 50, set by Brady in 2007. If he keeps up this pace, Manning will throw 64.

"Any inch of mistake that he sees, he's going to put the ball there and find that hole," Raiders cornerback Mike Jenkins said.

As for Denver's biggest rival, the Raiders—since Manning arrived, the Broncos have outscored them 100-40 in three runaway wins.

The Raiders offense made one big play before the game got out of hand. Terrelle Pryor (19 for 28 for 281 yards), who left the game late with a concussion, hit Denarius Moore in the middle of the field and Broncos defensive backs Duke Ihenacho and Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie whiffed on the tackle. Moore went 73 yards to cut Oakland's deficit to 17-7 in the second quarter.

All of which simply gave Manning the ball back more quickly. On the first play of the next drive, he hit Decker, who spun away from his defender for a 61-yard gain. Three plays later, the Broncos were up 17 again after Manning found Thomas on an out route for a 13-yard score.

Pacers hope to sign George contract before season

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Paul George has no intention of leaving the Pacers.

Larry Bird is spending most of his time these days trying to lure Indiana's budding star sticks around for the next few years.

The team president left Monday's annual Pacers Foundation golf outing before the others teed off so he could continue negotiating a long-term deal to keep George in town.

"We're talking, but we've got a ways to go. That's where I'm going now, back to work," Bird said.

George, Bird's first-round pick in 2010, has made significant strides each of the past two seasons. He went from bench contributor as a rookie to full-

time starter in 2011-12 to his first All-Star game appearance last season, when the Pacers fell one win short of reaching the NBA Finals. Last season, George averaged 17.4 points, 7.6 rebounds and 4.1 assists during the regular season, and was even better in the playoffs while also emerging as one of the league's top defenders.

His reward was being named the most improved player in the league last season and working out the last two summers with USA Basketball.

There has been speculation Lakers star Kobe Bryant might try to recruit George, a Los Angeles native, to help reinvigorate one of the league's most prominent franchises. But George doesn't appear to be going anywhere.

"I know Paul wants to be

here, he's told us that a million times, and we want him to be here," Bird said when asked if George's comments could cost him some extra cash. "But you know a kid's worth and it comes down to what he's accomplished on the court."

How much will it take? That could be the \$100 million question.

There's little doubt the Pacers will offer a max contract to prevent George from becoming a restricted free agent next summer when his rookie contract expires. Yahoo! Sports reported Sunday night that the two sides were nearing agreement on a deal for five years and \$90 million.

On Monday, Bird denied anything was imminent.

"I've never heard that number," Bird said. "But it's not

just getting a number, it's getting the insurance and all the other things in order, too. I would say that if you get the number worked out first, everything else usually falls into place."

A year ago, Indiana locked up All-Star center Roy Hibbert and point guard George Hill with long-term deals. This summer, they re-signed power forward David West, traded for Luis Scola and revamped the bench with the signing of free agents Chris Copeland, Donald Sloan and C.J. Watson.

The next two priorities are re-signing George and guard Lance Stephenson, who thrived in a starting role last season. Stephenson also could become a restricted free agent after the season.

Shaquille O'Neal joining Kings ownership group

The larger-than-life figure that teased and tormented the Sacramento Kings for so long is now the biggest name to join the franchise's new ownership group.

The Kings announced Monday that Shaquille O'Neal has acquired a minority stake in the team under new owner Vivek Ranadive. The Kings will introduce the four-time NBA champion at a news conference Tuesday in Sacramento.

During the height of his career with the Los Angeles Lakers, O'Neal fueled the rivalry with the Kings with his play on the court and his personality off of it.

O'Neal handed Sacramento

its biggest blow by rallying the Lakers from a 3-2 deficit to win the 2002 Western Conference finals, which is still a sore spot for Kings fans. The 7-foot-1 center even labeled the franchise the "Sacramento Queens" and accused fan favorite Vlade Divac—whom he referred to as "she" at one point—of flopping.

O'Neal was a 15-time All-Star and the 2000 NBA MVP. He played for the Orlando Magic, Los Angeles Lakers, Miami Heat, Phoenix Suns and Cleveland Cavaliers before retiring after the 2010-11 season with the Boston Celtics.

Orioles limp home after being swept by Rays



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP)—

James Loney hit a leadoff homer in the ninth as the Tampa Bay Rays rallied to complete a four-game sweep of Baltimore with a 5-4 win on Monday, putting a serious damper in the Orioles' wild-card playoff hopes in the American League.

The win pushed the Rays a full game ahead of idle Cleveland for the top AL wild card spot. Baltimore fell five games behind the Indians with six games to go for both teams.

With the bases loaded, two outs and trailing 4-2 in the seventh, Baltimore's Wil Myers sent a flare behind second base. Second baseman Alexi Casilla, who entered the game in the eighth, made a fully extended diving catch but he collided with Nick Markakis, racing in toward the ball from right field. The ball came loose and two runs scored.

Then, in the ninth, Loney lined a pitch from Tommy Hunter (6-5) down the right field line.

Joel Peralta (3-8) pitched a perfect ninth for the Rays, who have won nine of 12.

Rangers 12, Astros 0

In Arlington, Texas, Alex Rios hit for the cycle and Derek Holland struck out nine in his second shutout of the season as Texas started its final push for a playoff spot.

The Rangers pulled within a game of idle Cleveland for the second AL wild-card berth with six games remaining.

Rios finished off the cycle with a triple to right-center field in the sixth inning, and later scored to put Texas up 11-0. He doubled in the first inning, had an infield single in the third and hit his 18th homer in the fourth.

Holland (10-9) got his 10th win in his ninth try since his last victory on Aug. 4. The left-hander won at home for the first time since May 31.

Houston starter Jordan Lyles (7-9) gave up seven hits and seven runs with three walks in three innings.

The first cycle of Rios' career was the seventh in Rangers' history. Adrian Beltre was the last to do it, last Aug. 24 against Seattle.

Twins 4, Tigers 3, 11 innings

In Minneapolis, Josphil Pinto hit an RBI single in the 11th inning and Minnesota overcame 12 strikeouts by Justin Verlander.

The Tigers led 3-0 in the eighth, but Jose Veras gave up RBI doubles to Eduardo Escobar and Ryan Doumit. Brian Dozier led off the ninth with a tying homer against previously perfect closer Joaquin Benoit.

Dozier opened the 11th with a single off Luke Putkonen (1-2) and advanced on a wild pitch. Pinto punched a single to right field to give manager Ron

Gardenhire his 998th career victory.

Verlander gave up six hits and walked three in six shutout innings for the Tigers, whose magic number remained two for clinching the AL Central division title.

White Sox 3, Blue Jays 2

In Chicago, Jose Quintana pitched into the eighth inning and rookie Marcus Semien hit his first major league homer to lead Chicago.

Quintana (9-6), who entered the game with the most no-decisions in the American League at 17, allowed two runs and five hits in 7 1-3 innings. Addison Reed pitched the ninth inning to record his 39th save.

Toronto starter J.A. Happ (4-7) threw 110 pitches in his five innings, allowing three runs and eight hits.

In the second inning, Semien hit an 0-2 pitch from Happ down the line and well over the fence for a 2-0 lead.

The Blue Jays cut the lead in half as catcher J.P. Arencibia led off the fifth inning with his 21st homer, but the White Sox got the run back in the bottom of the inning when Avisail Garcia led off with a homer to make it 3-1.

The Blue Jays closed the gap to 3-2 on a run-scoring single by Ryan Goins in the eighth.

Athletics 10, Angels 5

In Anaheim, California, Jed Lowrie hit a three-run homer and Brandon Moss added a two-run shot as Oakland won its fifth straight.

Tommy Milone pitched into the sixth inning and Seth Smith had an early RBI double for the AL West division champions, who have won 11 of 13.

Seven A's drove in a run as Oakland (94-63) moved to a season-high 31 games over .500 with the major leagues' second-best record, just behind Boston (95-62).

Howie Kendrick homered and hit a three-run double for the Angels, who have lost two straight after winning 21 of 28.

Milone (12-9) struck out eight while giving up five hits and two earned runs in his second start since Aug. 27.

Garrett Richards (7-7) gave up eight hits and seven runs while failing to get out of the fifth inning in his worst start since joining the Angels' rotation full-time in late July.

Royals 6, Mariners 5, 12 innings
In Seattle, Alex Gordon threw out a runner at the plate in extra innings and scored on Salvador Perez's two-out double in the 12th to lift the Royals over the Mariners.

Kansas City moved within three games of idle Cleveland for the second AL wild card with six remaining. Texas is a game behind the Indians.

Gordon saved the Royals in the 10th inning, when his one-



Tampa Bay Rays' James Loney, right, gets doused with ice water by teammate Yunel Escobar after hitting a ninth-inning, game-winning home run off Baltimore Orioles relief pitcher Tommy Hunter during a baseball game Monday, Sept. 23, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. AP

hop throw to Perez from left field cut down Kyle Seager for an inning-ending double play.

Greg Holland walked the first two batters in the 12th, then retired three straight to end it.

Gordon drew a leadoff walk from Lucas Luetge (1-3) in the top of the 12th and Emilio Bonifacio sacrificed. Eric Hosmer popped out before Johnny Giavotella walked.

Pirates 2, Cubs 1

In Chicago, the Pittsburgh Pirates are headed to the playoffs for the first time in 21 years, clinching at least a National League wild card Monday when they beat the Chicago Cubs and the Washington Nationals lost to St. Louis.

It will be Pittsburgh's first trip to the postseason since Barry Bonds and Jim Leyland led the team to three straight NL East division titles from 1990-92. Bonds then left for San Francisco as a free agent, and the small-budget Pirates piled up 20 consecutive losing seasons—the longest streak in major professional sports.

Starling Marte hit a tiebreaking homer off Kevin Gregg (2-6) in the ninth inning at Wrigley Field, and the Pirates threw out a runner at the plate for the final out. Back in the visitors' clubhouse, they doused each other in champagne once St. Louis' 4-3 win over the Nationals went final.

Cincinnati also clinched at least a wild-card berth when it beat the Mets. The Pirates and Reds both trail first-place St. Louis by two games in the NL Central division with five to go.

Jason Grili escaped with his 32nd save in 34 chances.

Reds 3, Mets 2, 10 innings

In Cincinnati, Shin-Soo Choo drove in the winning run with a single off the wall in the 10th inning as Cincinnati secured a playoff spot after beating New York.

The second-place Reds clinched at least an NL wild card when Washington lost to St. Louis. Cincinnati manager Dusty Baker said there would be no celebration yet, not with a second straight NL Central division title still in play.

Greg Burke (0-3) gave up a one-out single by Devin Mesoraco in the 10th, and Derrick Robinson singled him to third. Choo followed with his third hit of the game off left-hander Sean Henn.

Manny Parra (2-3) allowed one hit in the 10th.

Cardinals 4, Nationals 3

In St. Louis, Carlos Beltran homered and Adam Wainwright earned his 18th win as St. Louis eliminated Washington from playoff contention.

Looking for their first NL Central title since 2009, the Cardinals maintained a two-game lead over Cincinnati and Pittsburgh with five to play.

All three teams are headed to the postseason. St. Louis secured no worse than a wild card on Sunday.

The Nationals won the NL East last season with 98 wins but were eliminated by St. Louis in the division series. One year later, they were knocked out by the Cardinals again.

Beltran's two-run homer in

the fifth off rookie Tanner Roark (7-1) broke a 2-all tie.

Wainwright (18-9) gave up three runs and seven hits over seven-plus innings. He struck out five, giving him a career-high 214 on the season.

Brewers 5, Braves 0

In Atlanta, Marco Estrada pitched two-hit ball for seven innings and Milwaukee belted three homers against Atlanta.

The NL East champion Braves are a half-game ahead of St. Louis for the best record in the National League.

Carlos Gomez, Jonathan Lucroy and Aramis Ramirez went deep for the Brewers. Estrada (7-4) threw a career-high 115 pitches.

Mike Minor (13-8) allowed eight hits and three runs in seven innings. The left-hander is winless in his last five starts.

Marlins 4, Phillies 0

In Miami, Nathan Eovaldi pitched into the eighth inning to help Miami beat Philadelphia.

Justin Ruggiano drew a bases-loaded walk in the first inning and the Marlins scored

three runs in the eighth on RBI singles by Donovan Solando and Ed Lucas and a sacrifice fly by Christian Yelich.

Eovaldi (4-6) allowed three hits over 7 2-3 innings. He struck out five and walked two.

Roy Halladay (4-5) left with right arm fatigue after walking two of his first three batters. He threw five strikes in 16 pitches before leaving the game.

Padres 4, Diamondbacks 1

In San Diego, Eric Stults allowed one run over 6 1-3 innings and Nick Hundley hit a three-run homer to lead San Diego over Arizona.

It was the second straight victory for Stults (10-13) after ending a 10-game winless streak. He dropped his first six second-half decisions before winning his previous outing against Pittsburgh.

Huston Street worked the ninth for his 33rd save in 34 chances.

Hundley connected off Brandon McCarthy (5-10). The Padres were shut out the previous two games by the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Yankees' Sabathia out rest of season with hamstring strain

NEW YORK (AP)—CC Sabathia will not pitch again for the New York Yankees this season because of a strained left hamstring. The Yankees said Monday that Sabathia was hurt Friday in his last start, when they beat the San Francisco Giants. They said the left-hander has

a Grade 2 strain and would need approximately eight weeks to recover. The Yankees are four games out of a wild-card spot entering the final week of the season. Sabathia will finish with a 14-13 record and 4.78 ERA in 32 starts.

Tiger competing against his past

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER



ATLANTA (AP)—Tiger Woods always has been measured against Jack Nicklaus and his 18 majors, and most recently Sam Snead and his 82 PGA Tour victories.

Now he's being measured against himself.

And it's not a fair fight. The PGA Tour sent out its awards ballot Monday to those players eligible to vote. The winners are to be announced Friday.

Woods should be a lock for player of the year, provided he is measured against the other four names on the ballot instead of the previous seasons when he won the award.

He won five times this year, and the only tournament that could be classified as a medium-strength field was at Torrey Pines. Woods won two World Golf Championships, at Doral and Firestone. He won The Players Championship on perhaps his least favorite course on tour. And he won Bay Hill. The world ranking points he earned from those five wins alone were more than any player has earned all year except for Henrik Stenson.

But he didn't win a major, the very standard by which Woods measures a great season. And there was nothing particularly memorable about his wins, except that two of them were on a Monday and all of them were on courses where he had won before. In fact, Woods couldn't even remember where he won. It was a harmless oversight, but no less amusing, when Woods last week at East Lake put himself down for winning Memorial instead of Torrey Pines. Nice problem to have.

Woods already has won the award 10 times. His record this year is worse than every season he won the award except 2003. So this has been a great season by any other comparison except with himself.

Three of the last four winners did not win a major. Luke Donald won in 2011 with only two victories, one of them at Disney. He also won the money title and the Vardon



Tiger Woods watching his tee shot off the third hole during the final round of play in the Tour Championship golf tournament at East Lake Golf Club, in Atlanta, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2013.

Trophy, and his win at Disney was one of clutch performances. Needing nothing short of a win to be the first player with money titles on both sides of

the Atlantic in the same year, he birdied the first six holes on the back nine and shot 64 to do just that.

Jim Furyk won in 2010 with only three victories and one other significant trophy—the FedEx Cup. Phil Mickelson won the Masters that year, but the other majors went to players who weren't even PGA Tour members at the time (Graeme McDowell, Louis Oosthuizen, Martin Kaymer).

Woods won in 2009 with seven wins and a sweep of all the other awards (Vardon, money title).

To be sure, Mickelson and Adam Scott could have made a convincing case by winning the Tour Championship. That would have given either of them three wins, including a major and the FedEx Cup (Mickelson would have needed some help for the latter).

But they didn't. One of the more famous sayings in golf is that the scorecard

has only a number, not pictures. These are the numbers: ■ Woods led the league with five wins. He won the money title by over \$2 million. He won the Vardon Trophy for lowest adjusted scoring average.

■ Scott won the Masters and The Barclays, which arguably has the strongest field in golf. He finished in the top 5 at two other majors.

■ Mickelson won the British Open and the Phoenix Open. He was runner-up in the U.S. Open.

Stenson also is on the ballot with two FedEx Cup playoff wins and the trophy itself (along with the \$10 million bonus). He finished in the top 3 at two other majors. Two great wins and zero majors don't cut it. Matt Kuchar is also on the ballot, but only for balance. He had his best year ever with two wins. That will have to do.

Adding pictures to the scorecard is the only thing that could change the vote.

Mickelson came within in a dimple of 59 in the Phoenix Open. He had the lead on the back nine at Merion and was runner-up at the U.S. Open for the sixth time. He bounced back to win the British Open—the major not even Mickelson thought he could win—with what his peers consider one of the greatest closing rounds in a major. It left him one leg short of the Grand Slam, though win-

ning on a links course already defines him as a complete player even without a U.S. Open. Scott became the first Aussie in a green jacket and he was leading the British Open on the back nine until making four straight bogeys. He was poised for a run at the Tour Championship until getting sick at the wrong time.

Both are great stories. But did they have better years?

Here are a few things to keep in mind. This is a vote of the players, and there's no telling how they define the award. Best player or best year? Do they have an agenda? Is it a popularity contest? Still baffling is Rickie Fowler winning rookie of the year in 2010 over Rory McIlroy, even though McIlroy won at Quail Hollow, Fowler didn't win at all and neither reached the Tour Championship.

Is it a sentimental pick for Mickelson, the greatest to have never won player of the year? Is there resentment toward Woods for how he handled the penalty given to him at Conway Farms for his ball moving?

The tour won't release results, only a winner. And it won't reveal voter turnout. Most of these guys only pay attention to their tee times.

One final thought as it relates to Woods: If his record this year belonged to any other player, would this even be a debate

LEE

From Page 28

last month and he was very impressed with the 11-year-old player.

“Carol’s outstanding performance caught the eye of Frank, who is planning to begin an elite training program for the top players in the Pacific in Australia. He wants Carol to be on the group,” Race said.

“This kind of opportunity encourages our players to train

harder, improve their skills, and do their best in every tournament. It’s an honor for the CNMI to have player considered in the elite program,” he added.

If the facility is set up in Australia and Lee agrees on joining the select group, she will join the short list of CNMI players that were given opportunities to train off-island. Ji Hoon Heo and Thea Minor trained in the Oceania Tennis Federation regional facility in Fiji for several days in their early years in junior tennis, while Tammy Ackerman

spent almost a year in the same training center.

Lee impressed the ITF official after winning both the singles and doubles division of the U12 age group in the POJC. She defeated Tahiti’s Naia Guitton in the singles finals, 6-1, 6-1, and then partnered with Tania Tan in downing Guitton and Lea Lamorelle in the doubles finale, 6-0, 6-4. The Pacific’s No. 12 player made it to the finals without dropping a single match. She won all five games in pool play

and recorded four victories via loves in the elimination.

After the POJC, Lee participated in the 2013 ITF Oceania Plate and played against much older foes. She went on to march into the semifinals of the girls senior division before losing to fellow CNMI player Negahr Rastguiry.

Lee’s notable showing in the two tournaments in Fiji last month earned her the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMASA Female Student Athlete of the Month (for August) award.

MORALES

From Page 28

field, it also bagged the automatic semis berth and in the Final Four, Morales notched 18 points to power his team to the 74-45 victory over the Rebelholics.

TEEN

From Page 28

ter the opening match between Myanmar and North Korea at 3:30pm. The Commonwealth bets arrived in Wuhan yesterday after a series of flight delays and cancellations due to the in the Philippines and China and will have to prepare against the host squad in less than 24 hours.

Team manager Wesley Bogdan, in a post at the unofficial website of the Teen Ayuyus, said the squad was scheduled to leave Guangzhou for Wuhan yesterday afternoon and the players are fine despite waiting for a long day to reach their final

destination.

The CNMI U16 National Team is composed of William Hinson II, Kennedy Izuka, Ryan and Reniel Relucio, Joel Fruit, Ryu Tanzawa, Carlson Cruzat, Kenneth Mafnas, Jordan Butcher, Won Young Kim, Julian Pellegrino, Joshua Galario, Deng Jin Hui, Aaron Lee, Green Vidal, John Masga, Ivan Seo, Evan Belcher, and David Yang. Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Johann Noetzel is the coach and is assisted by Jerishwin Angeles.

Noetzel during the send-off ceremony for the Teen Ayuyus last Friday said they are expecting a tough game against China

considering the host’s higher skill level and the homecourt advantage.

After the match against China, the CNMI will meet Group I favorite North Korea this Friday in the first game at 3:30pm. Again, the Teen Ayuyus will be up against highly skilled foes and Noetzel said they will push for a respectable finish against the North Koreans.

Noetzel’s wards will close out their bid in the qualifier on Sunday against Myanmar and the CNMI coach liked his team’s chances versus the developing South East Asian country.

“Against Myanmar, we have a good chance of walking out with a positive result. We

pressive 3-point shooting in the fourth canto allowed the S.J. Ol’Aces to take full control of the match after the game was pretty even in the first half and the eventual champion clung to a 3-point lead in the third. Mizer drained 4 triples and scored 15 of his total markers in the pivotal fourth canto.

watched Myanmar and its players love to play a physical game, but are not so technically apt, so we prepared for that. We will try to exploit their lack of strong technical skills,” Noetzel said.

The top finisher in the CNMI’s group will advance to the AFC U16 Championships that will be held in Bangkok, Thailand next year. There are 10 pools in the qualifier and some groups have already started their tournament, while the event in China is held simultaneously with the Group J qualifier in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, and the Philippines, which the CNMI met in its connecting flight in Manila last Monday, are competing in Group I.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES										
MLB STANDINGS					NFL STANDINGS					
AMERICAN LEAGUE					AMERICAN CONFERENCE					
East Division					East					
	W	L	Pct	GB		W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
x-Boston	95	62	.605	—	New England	3	0	0	1.000	59 34
Tampa Bay	87	69	.558	7½	Miami	3	0	0	1.000	74 53
New York	82	74	.526	12½	N.Y. Jets	2	1	0	.667	55 50
Baltimore	81	75	.519	13½	Buffalo	1	2	0	.333	65 73
Toronto	71	85	.455	23½						
Central Division					South					
Detroit	91	66	.580	—	Houston	2	1	0	.667	70 82
Cleveland	86	70	.551	4½	Indianapolis	2	1	0	.667	68 48
Kansas City	83	73	.532	7½	Tennessee	2	1	0	.667	60 56
Minnesota	66	90	.423	24½	Jacksonville	0	3	0	.000	28 92
Chicago	62	94	.397	28½						
West Division					North					
x-Oakland	94	63	.599	—	Cincinnati	2	1	0	.667	75 64
Texas	85	71	.545	8½	Baltimore	2	1	0	.667	71 64
Los Angeles	76	80	.487	17½	Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	47 64
Seattle	68	89	.433	26	Pittsburgh	0	3	0	.000	42 76
Houston	51	106	.325	43						
NATIONAL LEAGUE					West					
East Division					Denver	3	0	0	1.000	127 71
x-Atlanta	92	64	.590	—	Kansas City	3	0	0	1.000	71 34
Washington	84	73	.535	8½	Oakland	1	2	0	.333	57 67
New York	71	85	.455	21	San Diego	1	2	0	.333	78 81
Philadelphia	71	85	.455	21						
Miami	58	99	.369	34½	NATIONAL CONFERENCE					
Central Division					East					
z-St. Louis	92	65	.586	—	Dallas	2	1	0	.667	83 55
z-Cincinnati	90	67	.573	2	Philadelphia	1	2	0	.333	79 86
z-Pittsburgh	90	67	.573	2	N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	.000	54 115
Milwaukee	70	86	.449	21½	Washington	0	3	0	.000	67 98
Chicago	65	92	.414	27						
West Division					South					
x-Los Angeles	90	66	.577	—	New Orleans	3	0	0	1.000	70 38
Arizona	79	77	.506	11	Carolina	1	2	0	.333	68 36
San Diego	73	83	.468	17	Atlanta	1	2	0	.333	71 74
San Francisco	72	84	.462	18	Tampa Bay	0	3	0	.000	34 57
Colorado	71	86	.452	19½						
z-clinched playoff berth					North					
x-clinched division					Chicago	3	0	0	1.000	95 74
					Detroit	2	1	0	.667	82 69
					Green Bay	1	2	0	.333	96 88
					Minnesota	0	3	0	.000	81 96
					West					
					Seattle	3	0	0	1.000	86 27
					St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	58 86
					San Francisco	1	2	0	.333	44 84
					Arizona	1	2	0	.333	56 79

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rotary U19 Championship Game

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The S.J. Ol'Aces' Malcom Maui muscled his way against Sonics center Edilberto Javier during their title game in the U19 division of the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



The S.J. Ol'Aces' Chris Mizer pulls up for a triple.



The Sonics' Jimmy Tudela, the S.J. Ol'Aces' Chris Mizer, and the Sonics' Bryle Alegre prepare for the rebound play.



The Sonics' Emerson Fera, left, reaches in for the ball.



The S.J. Ol'Aces' Marc Babauta goes up for an off-balanced shot.



The Sonics' Jimmy Tudela tries to get away from the defense of the S.J. Ol'Aces' Chris Mizer.



The Sonics' Jaymark De Guzman goes up for a fastbreak layup.



The Sonics' Jack Aranda attempts a shot from downtown.



The S.J. Ol'Aces players and coach huddle during a timeout in the first quarter.



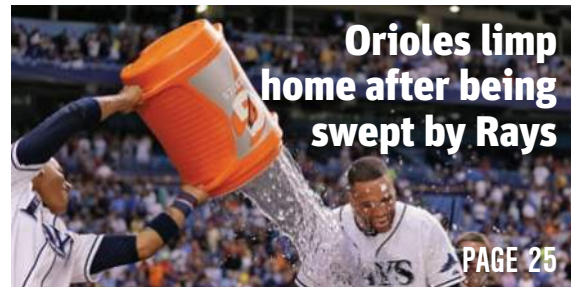
The Sonics' Bryle Alegre releases his second free throw.



**Manning's
3 TDs helps
Broncos beat
Raiders, 37-21**

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**Orioles limp
home after being
swept by Rays**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee considered for elite program

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is being considered for an elite program for top junior tennis players in the Pacific.

Jeff Race, president of the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and Lee's coach, announced the good news during the Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association meeting early this month at the conference



Junior

room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

According to Race, ITF director of Development Frank Couraud watched Lee play in the 2013 Pacific Oceania Championships in Fiji. See **LEE** on **Page 26**

Morales, Mizer get MVP plums



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

KFC/Taco Bell's C.J. Morales goes up for an acrobatic shot against DYS' Antonio Santos during the third quarter of their title game in the U15 division of the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Young guns C.J. Morales and Chris Mizer were named most valuable players

in their respective divisions in the 22nd Annual Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League.

Morales, who plays shooting guard for KFC/Taco Bell, took the MVP award in the U15 division. He was among the consistent top scorers for KFC/Taco Bell, which eventually won the division championship in the Rotary caging. The 13-year-old knocked in 20 points in KFC/Taco Bell's 88-75 title win over DYS. Morales' 8 points in the opening quarter of the winner-

take-all finals helped KFC/Taco Bell keep up with DYS, 20-22. He added 7 more points in the second canto to put KFC in the lead, 44-39, before his teammates took over in the second half of the title match.

In the regular season, Morales willed KFC/Taco Bell to a 3-1 record and the top seeding in the playoffs. He also scored in twin digits in three of their five games in the elimination round. The lefty had his best showing against the Ol'Aces after firing 25 points. Morales then had 13 and 11 versus the Rebelholics and Rollers, respectively, and logged 7 points apiece against the DYS and DA Projects.

With KFC/Taco Bell getting the top seeding in the six-team See **MORALES** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Carol Lee is seen here making a return from the baseline against Tania Tan during the 2013 North Pacific Regional Championships at the Pacific Islands Club last June.

Teen Ayuyus kick off bid in AFC U16

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The CNMI U16 National Team will

begin its campaign in the AFC U16 Qualifying Tournament today when it faces host China at the Hankou Culture and Sports Stadium in Wuhan.

The Teen Ayuyus will play China in the second game in Group I qualifier at 7:35pm (9:35pm Saipan time) or after. See **TEEN** on **Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI U16 National Team members and officials pose for a group photo during a send-off ceremony at the Kanoa Resort last Friday.